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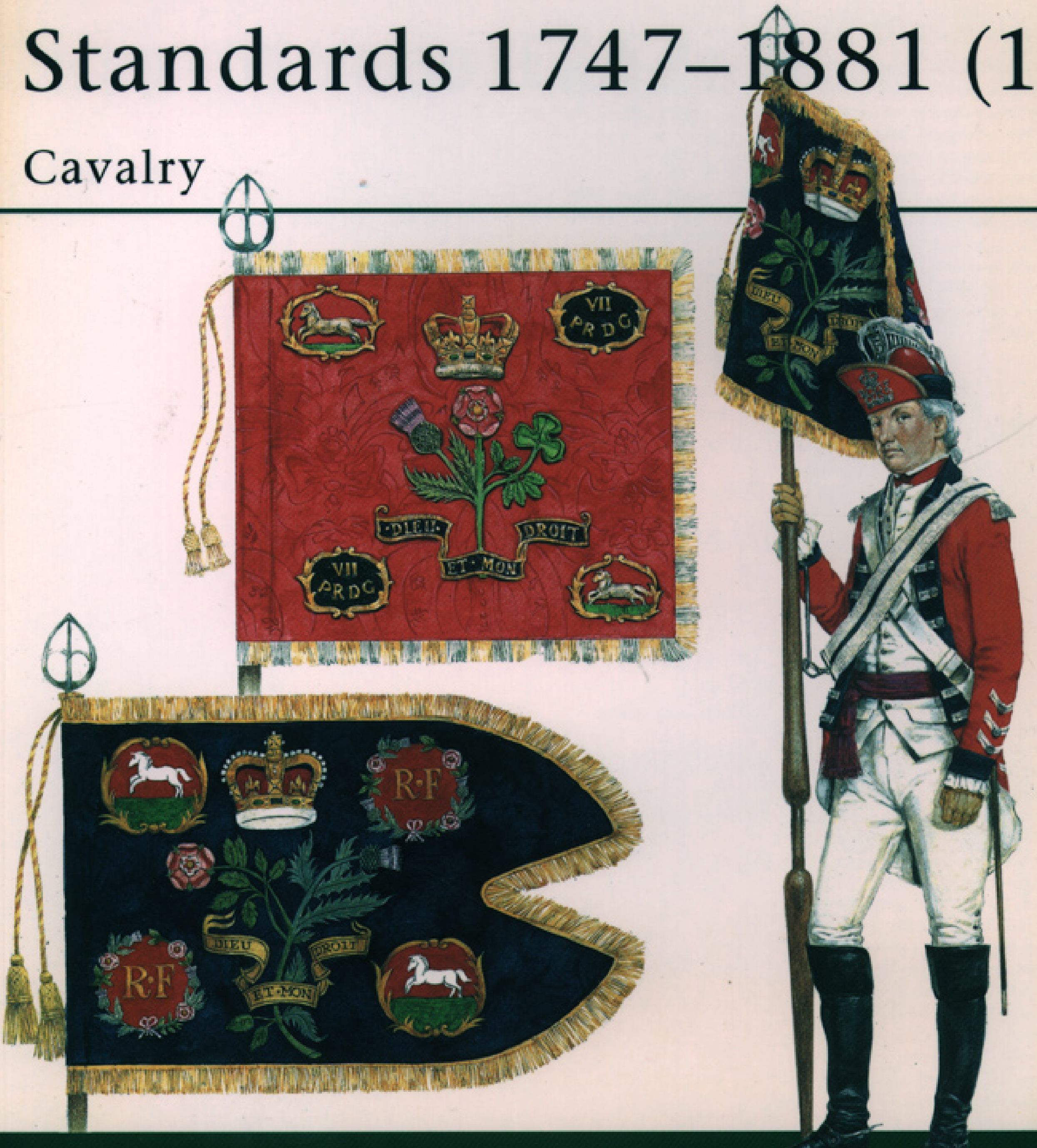
British Colours & Standards 1747–1881 (1)

Cavalry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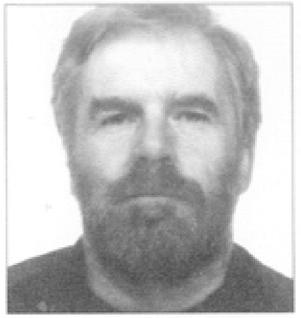
Ian Sumner • Illustrated by Richard Hook



IAN SUMNER was born in 1953 in Eccles, near Manchester. He originally trained as a librarian in Newcastle-upon-Tyne but is now a freelance author. His previous work for Osprey includes three Men-at-Arms titles on the French Army 1914–45; he has also written several books on the history of the East Riding of Yorkshire, where he now lives with his wife.

RICHARD HOOK was born in 1938 and trained at Reigate College of Art. After national service with 1st Bn, Queen's Royal Regiment, he became art editor of the much-praised magazine *Finding Out* during the 1960s. He has worked as a freelance illustrator ever since, earning an international reputation particularly for his deep knowledge of Native American material culture; and has illustrated more than 30 Osprey titles. Richard is married and lives in Sussex; his three children Adam, Jason, and Christa are all professionally active in various artistic disciplines.

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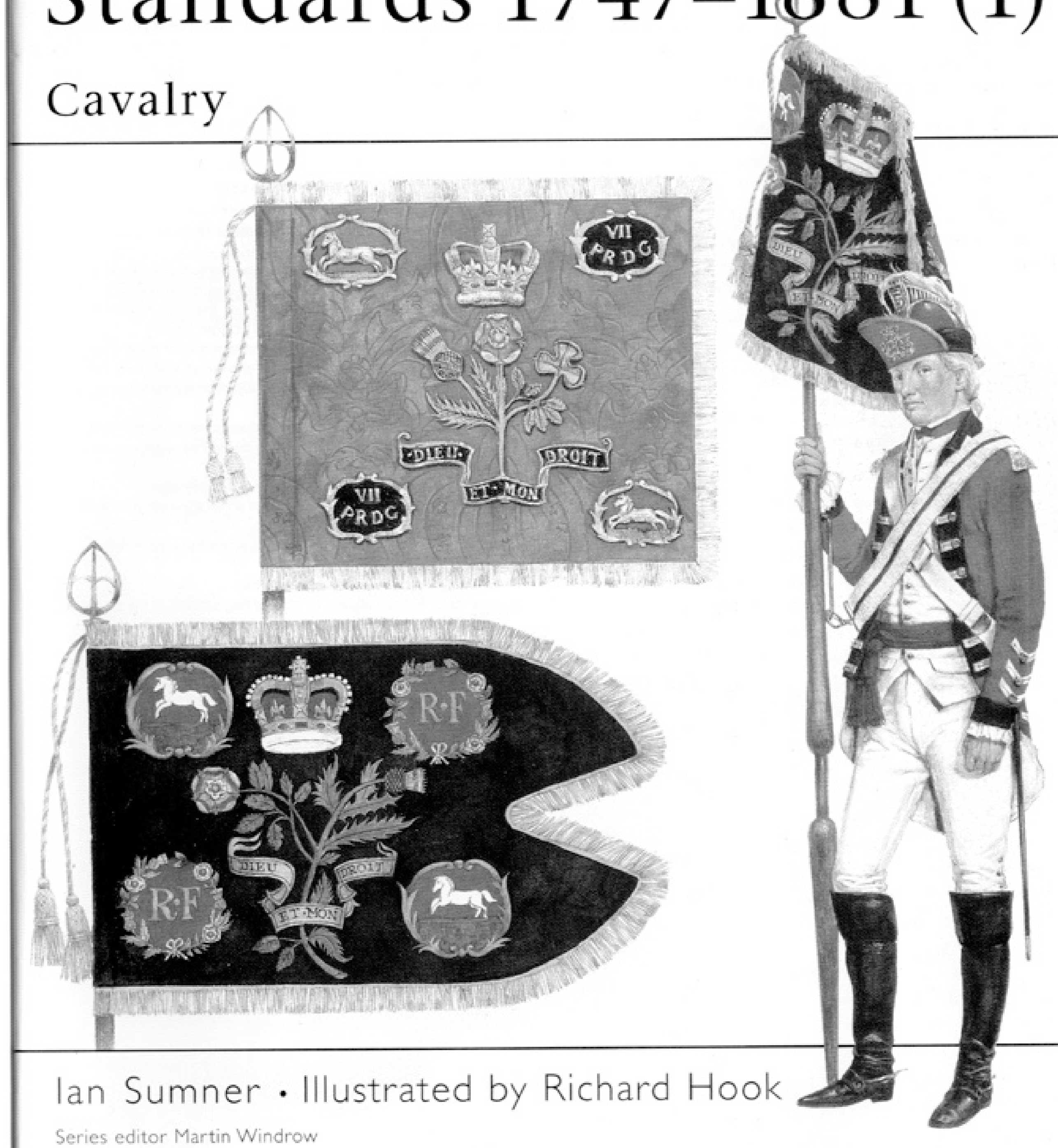

Ian Sumner • Illustrated by Richard Hook

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Artist's Note

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Glossary

Colour The large square or oblong flags carried by infantry regiments.
Corner, first, second, etc. The first corner is that in the top left corner of the sheet (q.v.), with the staff on the viewer's left; the second corner is in the top right corner; the third corner in the bottom left; the fourth corner in the bottom right.
Ferrule A metal shoe fixed to the bottom end of the flagstaff.
Finial The decorative metalwork at the top of each flagstaff. It was a spearhead until 1855, when it was replaced by the lion and crown of the Royal crest.
Fly That part of the sheet (q.v.) furthest away from the staff.
Guidon A small swallow-tailed flag carried by regiments of dragoons.
Hoist That part of the sheet (q.v.) nearest the staff.
Obverse The side of the flag shown when the staff is to the viewer's left.
Reverse The side of the flag shown when the staff is to the viewer's right.
Sheet The whole of the cloth of a flag.
Standard A small square or oblong flag carried, in the British Army, by regiments of horse and dragoon guards.

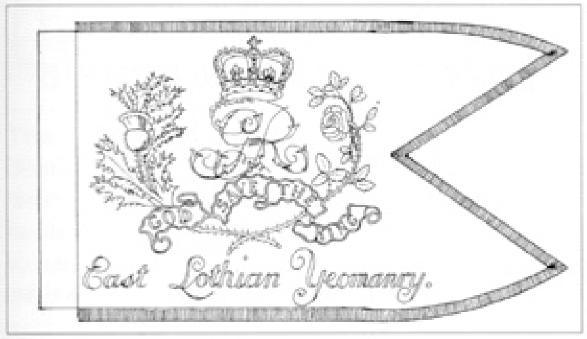
BRITISH COLOURS & STANDARDS 1747–1881

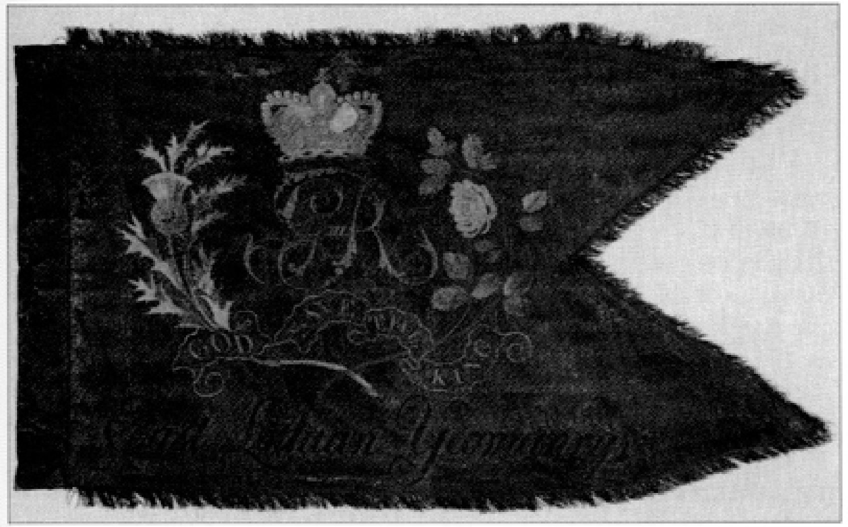
(1) CAVALRY

THE REGULATIONS

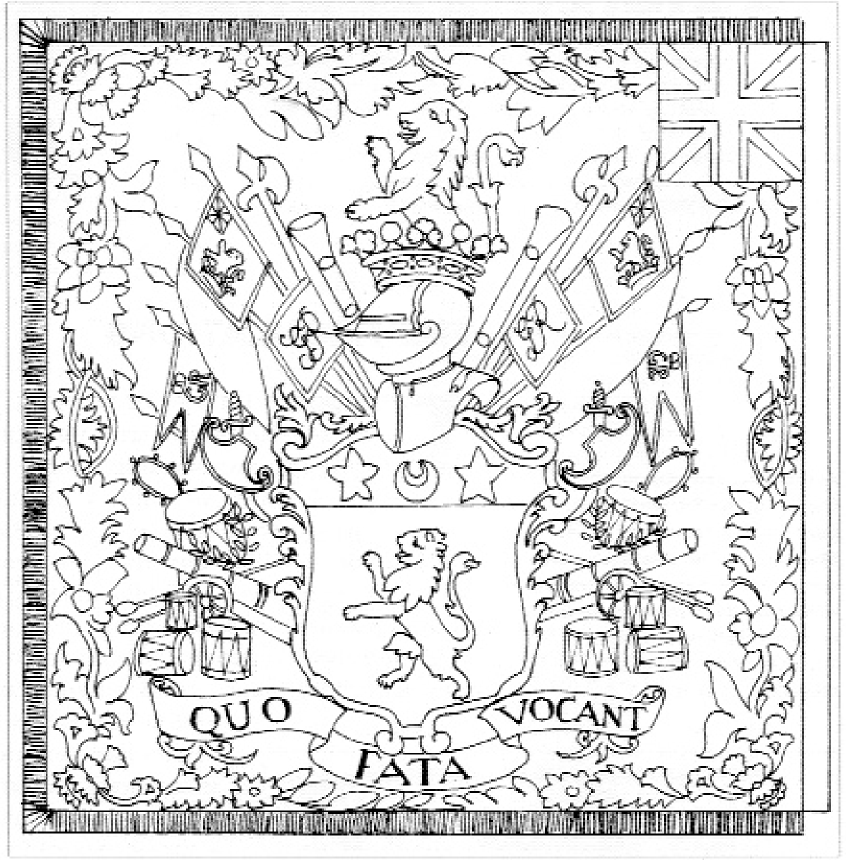
THE EARLIEST SET OF REGULATIONS governing the standards and colours of the British Army was not issued until 1747. The reasons why the Hanoverian King George II chose this particular moment to regulate this area of military practice, 33 years after his father's accession to the British throne, are nowhere made explicit. The fright of the Jacobite rebellion and the experience of the War of the Austrian Succession had prompted William, Duke of Cumberland and second son of the king, to set in train a programme of reform. This was designed to weld the mass of regiments which had no common drill, training or dress into something like a royal national army, with a standard uniform and tactics, rather than a force assembled by the regimental colonels. Regiments, for example, increasingly became known by their precedence number rather than by the name of their colonel – time-honoured practice until that point.

The regulation of standards and colours must be seen in this context. It is telling that one of the major concerns of the 1747 issue was to ensure that colonels no longer put their 'arms, crest, device or livery' upon the colours and standards of their regiment in the way they had done in the past. The only badges that could be displayed in future were to be those granted by royal authority. It is equally significant that the Household regiments – the Horse Guards, the Horse Grenadier Guards and the Foot Guards – whose standards and colours already carried the devices of the sovereign, were not even included. The message is clear: the regiments of the army were no longer to be considered as a form of private property, but as an instrument of royal power. The loyalty of the individual





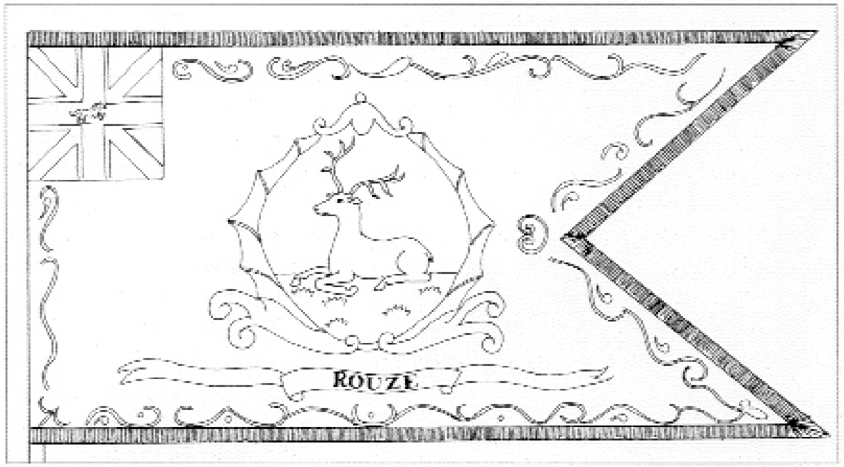
Actual flag, and sketch: the Guidon of the Tranent Troop, East Lothian Yeomanry, 1794. Sheet: blue. The thistle and rose sprays are in natural colours; the remaining decoration is painted in golden yellow. (Photo: Trustees of the National Museums of Scotland)



Standards before the 1747 Regulations, I: the reverse of the standard carried by Ligonier's Horse at Dettingen, 1743. Sheet: crimson silk with a gold fringe. Arms: red with a gold lion; the upper section is gold with two stars and a crescent in blue. Trophy of arms: embroidered in gold thread. Crest: a red lion emerging from a gilt and silver coronet. Swags: embroidered in gold thread and outlined in gilt bullion thread. Source: actual flag.

soldier would in future be directed not towards the person of the colonel but towards the majesty of the Crown. And, in a pre-literate age, what better means of reinforcing this message than through the symbolism of the flag? If the only devices visible were the sovereign's cipher or one of his badges, the common soldier would know exactly where his loyalties lay.

The regiments of cavalry did not all carry the same type of flag; there was a difference between the 'regiments of horse' on the one hand and the 'dragoons' on the other. The regiments of horse, the heavy cavalry of the line, carried standards. These were normally square or rectangular in appearance, with a fringe around each of their three free sides. In contrast, the dragoons all carried guidons. Like the standards, these had a fringe around their free edges, but they were always swallow-tailed in shape. The Horse Guards and the Horse Grenadier Guards – the Sovereign's Household troops – carried both types of flag.



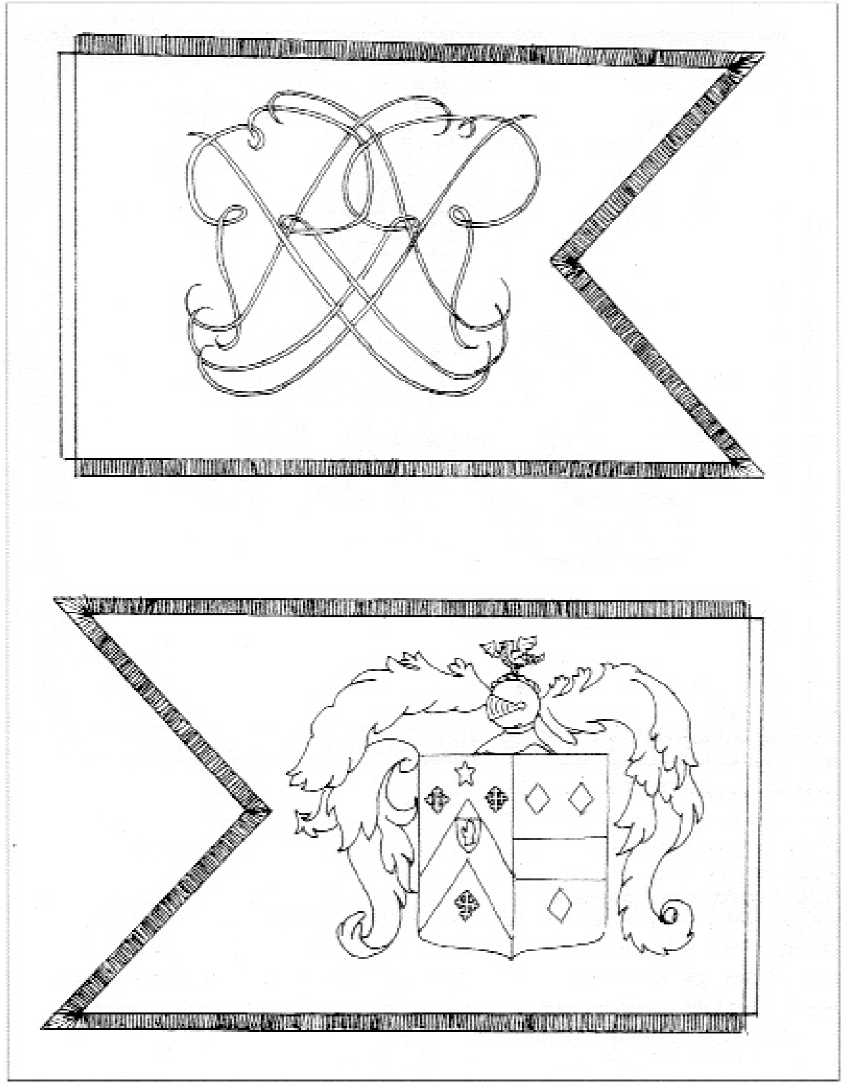
Standards before the 1747 Regulations, II: an unusually long guidon belonging to an unidentified regiment of dragoons, captured at Fontenoy in 1745. Sheet: green. Centre: silver with a stag in natural colours lodged on a green ground, all within a silver frame. Motto scroll: white with black letters. The French source copied by Lawson gives only an impressionistic view of the decorative swags around the edge of this flag and of those carried by Rich's Dragoons (see opposite). It is unlikely that they provide a true representation of the actual design. Source: Lawson, *Uniforms of the British Army*, vol 1.

Economy measures put into effect following the end of the War of the Austrian Succession included the conversion of three regiments of horse into somewhat less prestigious regiments of dragoons. To soften the blow, the three were permitted to take the more impressive title of 'dragoon guards'. At the same time, they were allowed to carry a combination of a standard, in recognition of their previous seniority as regiments of horse, in addition to the guidon, more proper to their new status as dragoons. The remaining regiments of horse were renumbered accordingly.

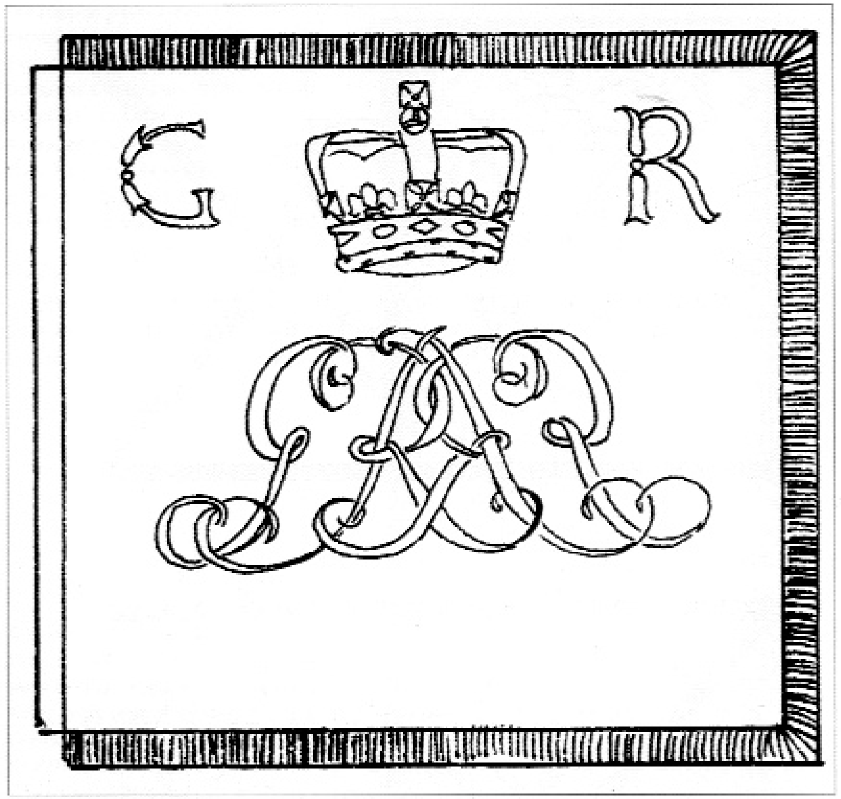
The 1747 Regulations

The regulations of 1747 dealt only with the standards and guidons carried by the regiments of horse, the dragoon guards and the dragoons. The flags of the Horse Guards and the Horse Grenadier Guards, as Household troops, were paid for by the royal household from a separate account, the Great Wardrobe, and as such were not included in the regulations. The standards of the regiments of horse, and the standards and guidons of the new dragoon guards, were to be made of damask silk, fringed with gold or silver, whereas the regiments of dragoons were to carry guidons made of plain silk. The tassels and cords – of standard or guidon – were to be a mixture of crimson silk and gold. The actual dimensions of the sheet and the lance are not given. They were simply required to be identical in size to those carried by the Horse and Horse Grenadier Guards. However, detailed records from the 1st Royal Dragoons provide more precise information on the size of the guidons of this period. The sheet was 27ins on the staff and 41ins flying, and the slit was some 10ins long and about 4ins wide at the fly. The lance was 10ft long overall, including the spearhead finial and the ferrule.

The King's (or First) Standard or Guidon of each regiment was to be in crimson, with a crowned Union badge (the rose and thistle conjoined

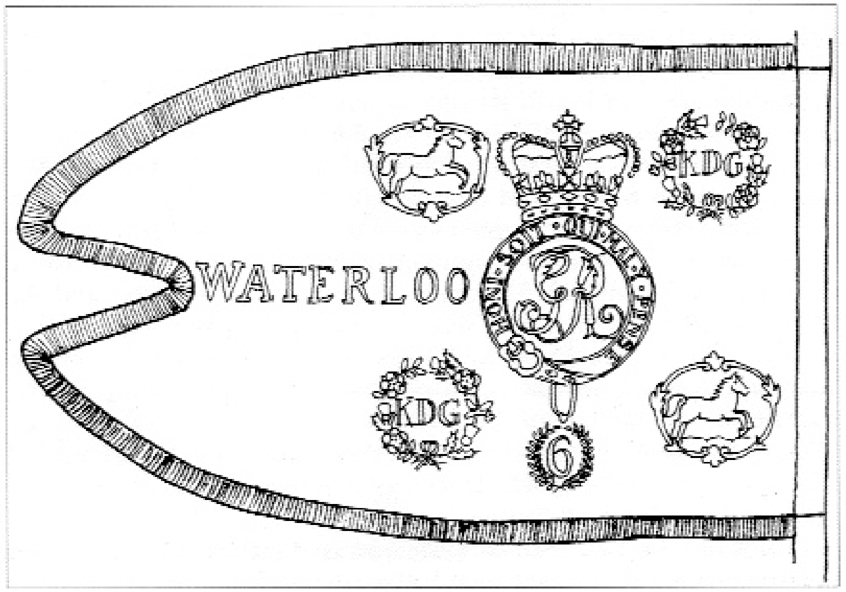


Standards before the 1747 Regulations, III: a guidon of Rich's Dragoons (later 4th Dragoons) captured at the fall of Ghent in 1745. Sheet: yellow with a silver fringe. Obverse: the Royal cipher, doubled and reversed, in silver. Reverse: the arms of Field Marshal Sir Robert Rich Bt and his wife Anne Griffith. His arms: red with a gold chevron between three crosses; a silver star and a small silver shield bearing a red hand. Her arms: blue with a bar between three diamonds in silver. Crest: a silver wyvern. Mantling around the shield: red and gold. Helmet: silver. Source: Lawson, *Uniforms of the British Army*, vol.1.



The Second Squadron Standard of the Royal Horse Guards, c.1746. Sheet: crimson damask with a gold fringe. Lettering: gold. Source: Dawnay, *Standards of the Household Division*.

on a single stem) in the centre, above a scroll bearing the Royal motto *Dieu et mon droit*. The first and fourth corners were to contain a gold-edged crimson 'compartment' or cartouche, containing the badge of the House of Hanover – the running white horse on a green mound; the other two corners were each to contain a similar cartouche enclosing the regimental number in gold or silver letters, on a background of the colour of the regimental facings.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KDG
KDG
HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE
6

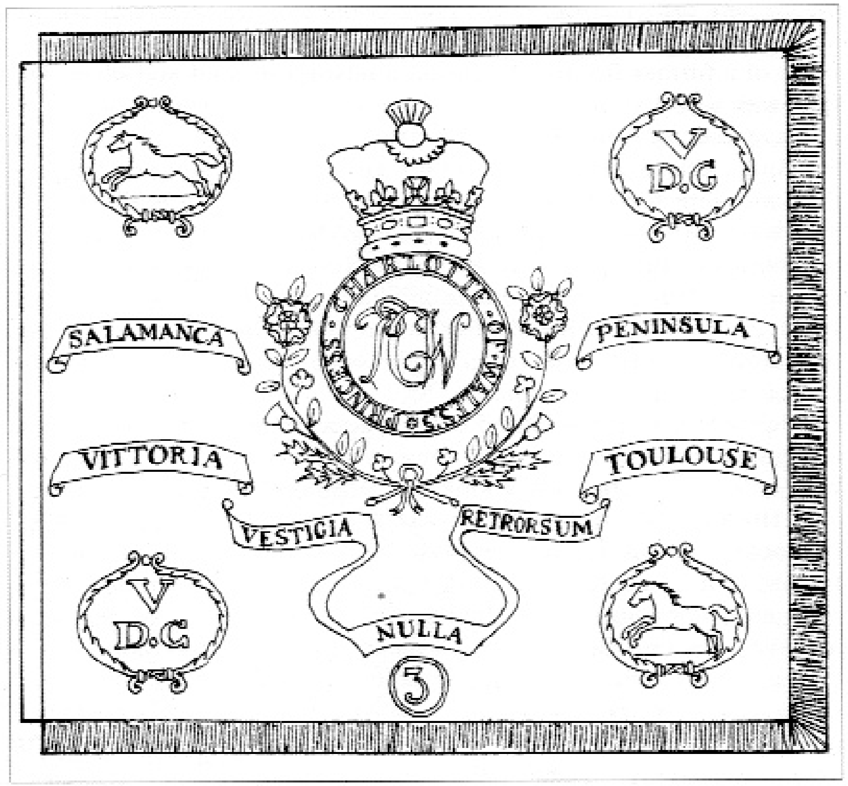
The Sixth Guidon of the 1st or King's Dragoon Guards, c.1817. Sheet: dark blue with a gold fringe. Centre: crimson with a gold cipher within the Garter. Battle honour: embroidered in gold directly onto the sheet. Source: *JSAHR*, vol.13, p.105.

The Second and Third Standard or Guidon of each regiment was to be of the colour of the regimental facings. In the centre was the badge of the regiment, if it was entitled to one, or the regimental number in gold or silver letters on a crimson background, both surrounded by a Union wreath of thistles and roses on the same stalk. If the regiment was also entitled to a motto, then that was to be displayed under the central device. Cartouches were once again to be found in all four corners. The cartouches in the first and fourth corners contained the running white horse. If the regiment did not have its own badge, the cartouches in the second and third corners contained a Union badge of a rose and thistle conjoined on a crimson ground. Where the regiment did possess a badge of its own, these cartouches contained instead the regimental number on a crimson ground, surrounded by a Union wreath of roses and thistles. The Third Standard or Guidon was distinguished by the inclusion of the figure '3' on a circular crimson backing below the motto.

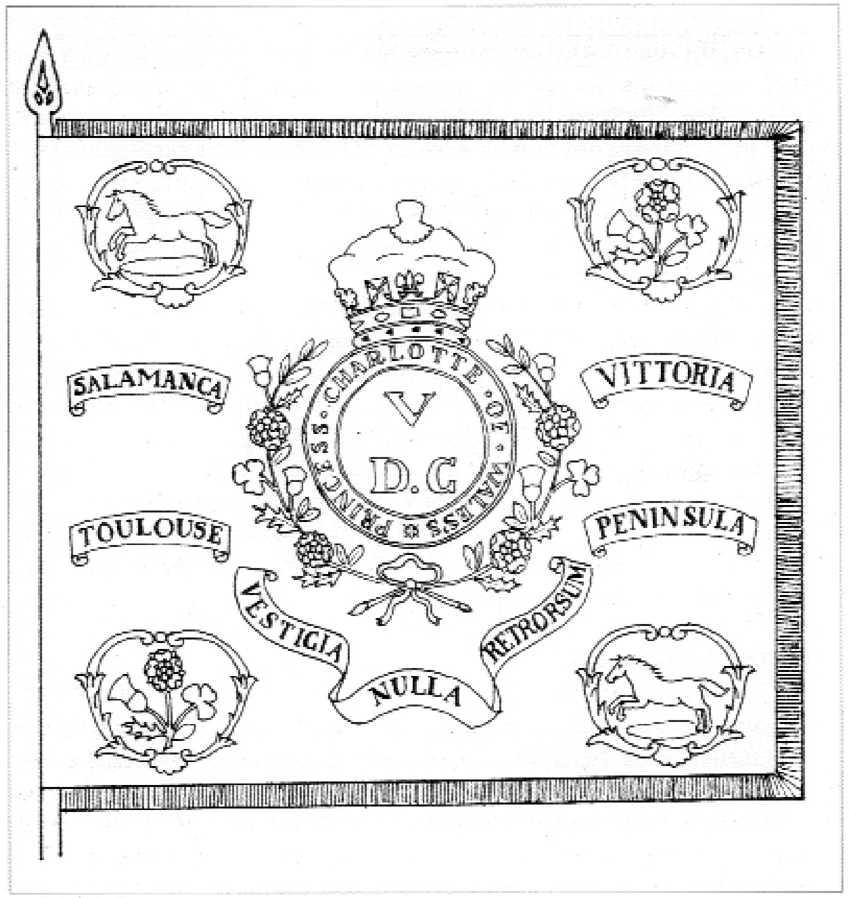
There appears to have been some delay before the new instructions were put into effect. When the 1st Dragoon Guards were inspected at Shrewsbury in 1750 the subsequent report confirms that the standards then in use, presented in 1740, were in bad condition. The regiment reportedly was still waiting for 'a pattern', a drawing showing the design of the standards as amended by the new regulations, from the Duke of Cumberland, the commander-in-chief. Nor was the 1st Dragoon Guards the only regiment in this situation. The 6th Dragoons, at Norwich, had not received their new guidons either, reporting in the same year that they too were awaiting their 'pattern'.

The 1751 Regulations

The 1751 regulations were in essence no more than a reprint of the 1747 issue. The only addition was a schedule listing each regiment and summarising the details of their standards and guidons, perhaps included to eliminate any confusion over 'patterns'. The schedule indicates that the standards and guidons of seven of the regiments had gold fringes, whilst



The Third Standard of the 5th Dragoon Guards. Sheet: dark green with a gold fringe. Centre: crimson with gold edges. Cipher: 'PCW' in gold. Motto scroll: white with black lettering. Battle honour scrolls: yellow with black lettering. Figure 3: gold on a gold-edged crimson medallion. Source: Pomeroy, *Story of a Regiment of Horse*.

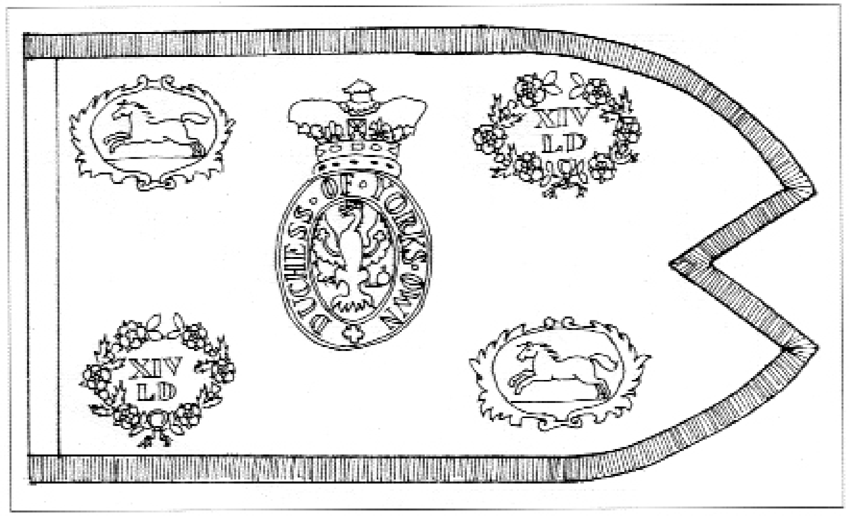


The Regimental Standard of the 5th Dragoon Guards, 1838. This is similar to its predecessor, but the cipher has now been replaced by the regimental number in gold. Source: Pomeroy, *Story of a Regiment of Horse*.

those of a further five had fringes in a mixture of gold and silver. The flags with gold fringes belonged either to regiments of dragoon guards (1st and 2nd) or horse (2nd and 3rd), or to royal regiments (1st Royal, 3rd King's Own and 7th Queen's Own Dragoons); those with fringes in gold and silver mixed belonged to the 3rd Dragoon Guards, the 1st and 4th Horse, and the 2nd and 5th Dragoons. The remaining regiments, all dragoons, carried guidons whose fringes were a mixture of silver and a colour – either blue (4th, 6th Inniskilling and 9th), yellow (8th and 13th), green (10th, 11th and 12th) or red (14th). In virtually every case, the colour included in the fringes is the same as that prescribed for the lace of the regimental trumpeters.

Eight of the regiments listed boasted a special badge. With the single exception of the 6th Dragoons, these regiments were all 'Royal', and bore either the cipher of the king (1st Dragoon Guards) or the queen (3rd Dragoon Guards, 7th Dragoons), the crest of England (1st Royal Dragoons), or royal badges representing Scotland (2nd Dragoons), Ireland (5th Dragoons) or Hanover (3rd Dragoons). In addition, three regiments were entitled to mottoes: the 2nd Horse (*Vestigia nulla retrorsum*), the 2nd Dragoons (*Nemo me impune lacessit*, the motto of the Order of the Thistle, which was part of its badge), and the 3rd Dragoons (*Nec aspera terrent*, the motto of the House of Hanover). It is possible that the original intention had been for more regiments to bear a motto. In a book of paintings depicting the standards and guidons prescribed by

The Second Guidon of the 14th Duchess of York's Light Dragoons, 1798. Sheet: orange with a gold fringe. Eagle: black with a gold crown, *kleestengel* on the wings, orb and sceptre; the whole placed on a white ground. Circlet: crimson with gold decorations. Coronet: gold with a crimson cap. Source: Cannon, *Historical Record of the 14th Regiment*.

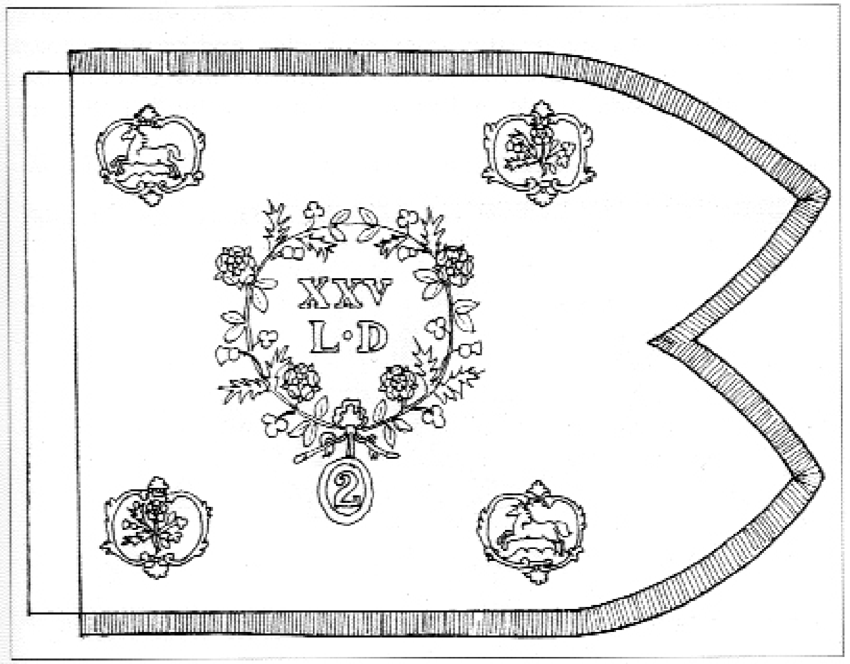


the 1751 regulations, now held in the National Army Museum, each reproduction includes a white scroll designed for that purpose. In most cases, however, the scroll has been left blank.

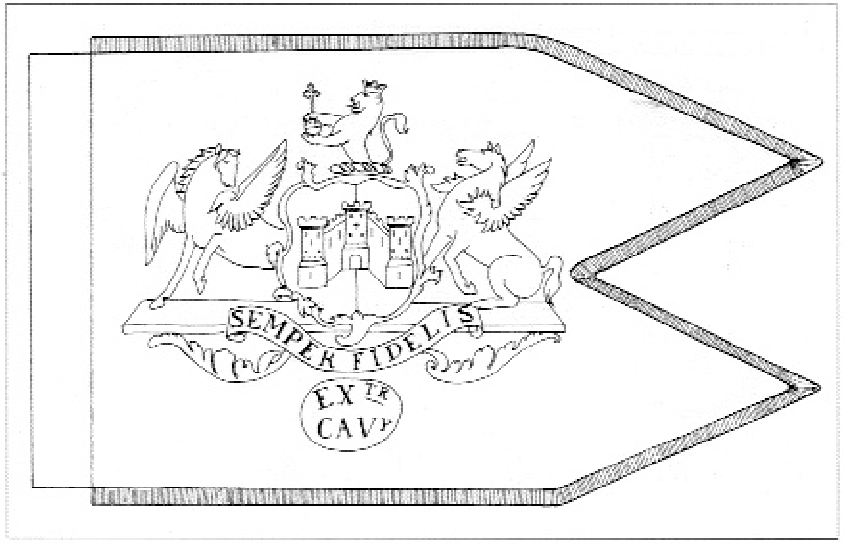
The 1768 Regulations

The new regulations, contained in a Royal Warrant of 19 December 1768, repeated many of the provisions of the previous issue, but also extended their scope and cleared up areas of ambiguity. For example, the first article of the 1747 regulations, which had specified that 'no colonel is to put his Arms, Crest, Device, or Livery, on any part of the Appointments of the Regiment under his Command', was now applied unequivocally to the whole of the army. In 1747, it had appeared only in the section dealing with the infantry.

The Second Guidon of the 25th Light Dragoons. Sheet: yellow with a silver fringe. Centre: crimson. The facings originally worn by the regiment had been yellow, but they were light grey by 1808. The regiment was disbanded in 1819. Source: actual flag.



For the first time, the size of the standards and guidons was laid out in some detail. Standards were to be 29ins long and 27ins on the staff, excluding the fringe. Guidons were to be somewhat larger – 41ins long to the end of the slit of the swallow-tail, and 27ins on the staff. These dimensions were identical to those given for the guidons of the 1st Royal Dragoons in the 1740s and suggest that, in matters of size, the 1768 regulations simply confirmed existing practice. The guidons carried by the newly formed regiments of light dragoons, regulated for



The Guidon of the Exeter Volunteer Cavalry, c.1798. Sheet: blue with a gold fringe. Arms: black (hoist) and red (fly) with a gold castle, on a shield edged in gold. Crest: a red lion wearing a gold coronet and holding a silver and gold orb. Wreath: gold, red and black. Winged horses: white with gold manes, wings and hooves. Base: grey. Scrolls and medallion: all in gold with black lettering. Source: Freeman, B., *Yeomanry of Devon, 1794–1927* (London, 1927).

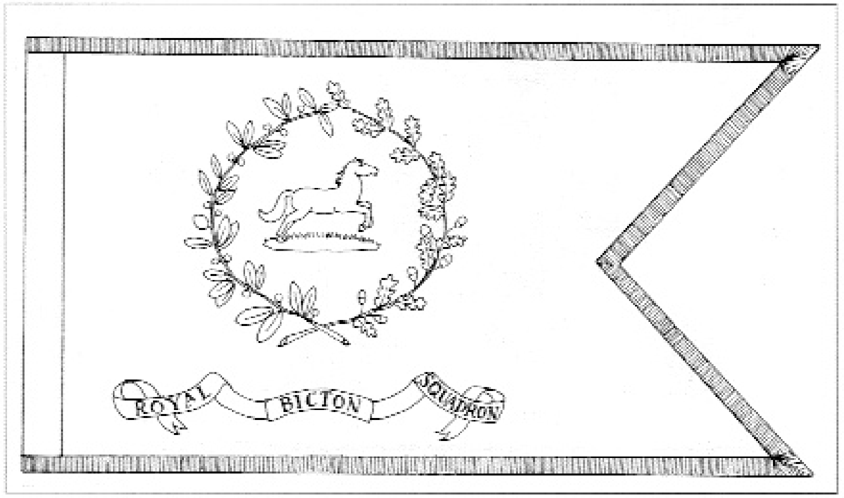
the first time in 1768, were simply 'to be of a smaller size'.

There is no mention within the warrant of the length of the fringes. A guidon made for the 1st Dragoons in 1778 needed three yards of 1½in-wide lace. In the same period, the fringes on the flags of the Horse Guards and Royal Horse Guards were, at 3¾ins, over twice that width.

The staff or 'lance' carried by all regiments except light dragoons was to be 9ft long, including the finial and the ferrule. Again, the exact size of the lances carried by light dragoon regiments was not specified. A contemporary treatise, *The Discipline of the Light Horse*, written by a Captain Hinde and published in 1778, states that the staff for light dragoons was 8ft long, inclusive of finial and ferrule, and that the standard was to be 20ins on the staff. Hinde does not give any indication of the length of the guidon; however, assuming its length was in proportion to its height, a measure of somewhere in the region of 30ins is most likely. If Hinde can be taken to reflect contemporary practice, it was not to last. By the 19th century there appears to have been little difference between the size of the guidons carried by light dragoons and those of other dragoon regiments.

The descriptions of individual standards and guidons given in the 1768 regulations are almost identical to those of 1751. They do show, however, some changes in the detail of badges and mottoes. Extra provision had been made for the two regiments that recently had received the subsidiary title of Prince of Wales's – the 3rd Dragoon Guards and the 12th Light Dragoons. Both were granted the full panoply of badges associated with Welsh regiments at this time. These comprised not only the plume and coronet of the Prince of Wales, but also the rising sun and the red dragon. The plume and coronet, with the motto *Ich dien*, formed the central badge of the Second and Third Standard or Guidon; the rising sun and the red dragon appeared, instead of the regimental number, in the cartouches in the second and third corners of the same flags. Both sun and dragon were royal badges. The former dates from the time of Richard II, created Prince of Wales in 1376. The latter is said first to have been used in Wales by Cadwaldr Fendigaid ap Cadwallon, King of Gwynedd, 654-664; as a royal badge, however, it dates only from the reign of Henry VII.

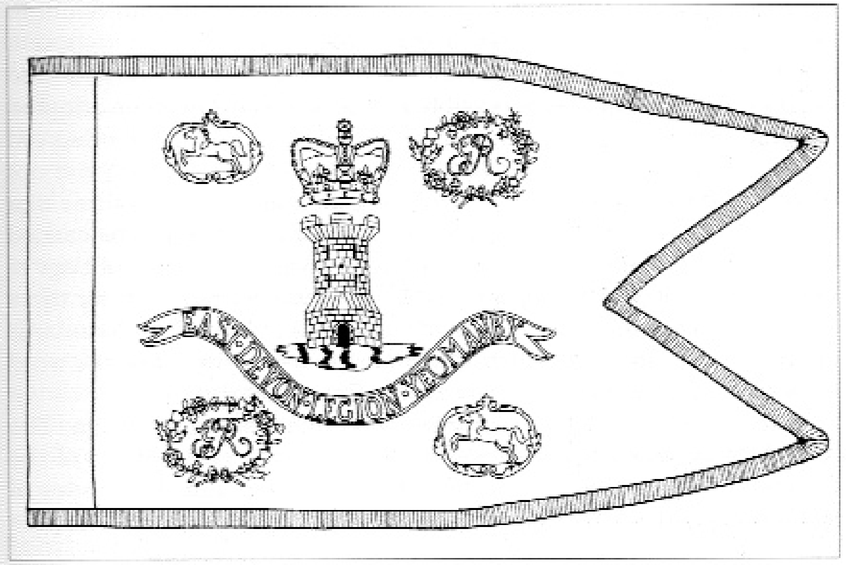
Three further regiments had also been granted badges – the 15th King's Light Dragoons (the king's cipher), the 16th Light Dragoons (the queen's cipher) and the 17th Light Dragoons (a death's head). In addition, mottoes had been granted to the 15th King's Light Dragoons (*Emsdorff* for the battle of 1759), the 16th Queen's Light Dragoons (*Aut cursu, aut cominus armis* for the campaign in Portugal) and the 17th Light Dragoons (*Or glory*).



The Guidon of the Royal Bicton Squadron, Royal 1st Devon Yeomanry. The Royal Bicton Troop was formed in 1800 and became a squadron of the newly created regiment in 1802. It continued to carry the same standard, suitably altered. Sheet: blue with a gold fringe. Centre: a horse in silver, running over a green mound. Scroll: crimson with gold letters. Source: Freeman, *Yeomanry of Devon*.

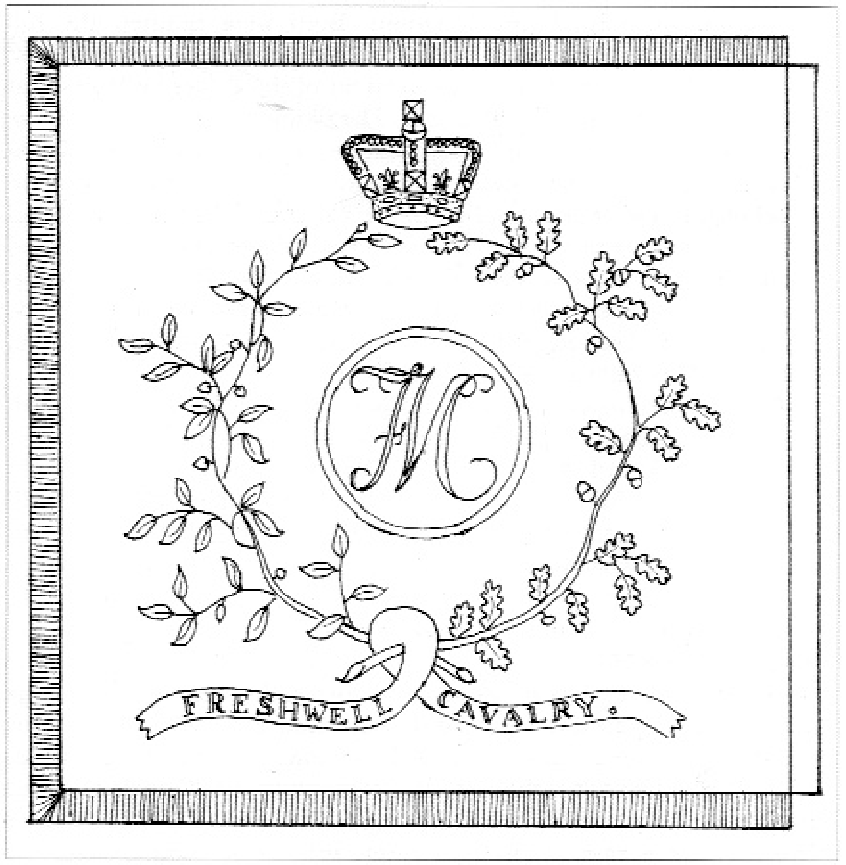
Changes after 1768

None of these three sets of regulations discuss the scale at which flags were to be issued to the cavalry, although surviving inspection returns suggest that many regiments carried one flag per squadron of two troops. This was certainly the scale of issue proposed by Gen. Humphrey Bland in his *Treatise of Military Discipline*, published in 1727. The senior of the two troops carried the flag. During time of war, when regiments were increased in size, this meant that most regiments carried at least three flags. This was certainly the case, for example, at the end of the Seven Years' War, during the War of American Independence, and later during the wars against France. Some regiments carried more: the 1st Dragoon Guards had five standards in 1804, and the 15th Light Dragoons the same number of guidons in 1800; the Royal, 2nd and 6th



The Guidon of the East Devon Legion Yeomanry, c1805. The unit was disbanded in 1827. Sheet: crimson with a silver fringe. Centre: a tower in gold standing on a base in shades of green. Scroll: blue with silver lettering and edges. Corner ciphers: gold. Source: Freeman, *Yeomanry of Devon*.

The reverse of the standard of the Freshwell Volunteer Cavalry (Essex), c.1796. Sheet: crimson with a gold fringe. Centre and scroll: dark blue with gold lettering. The reverse bears the Royal cipher in the centre and 'God save / the King' on the scroll. When examined in 1919 the sheet was 32ins square, excluding the fringe. Source: *Essex Review*, April 1919, pp.41-48.

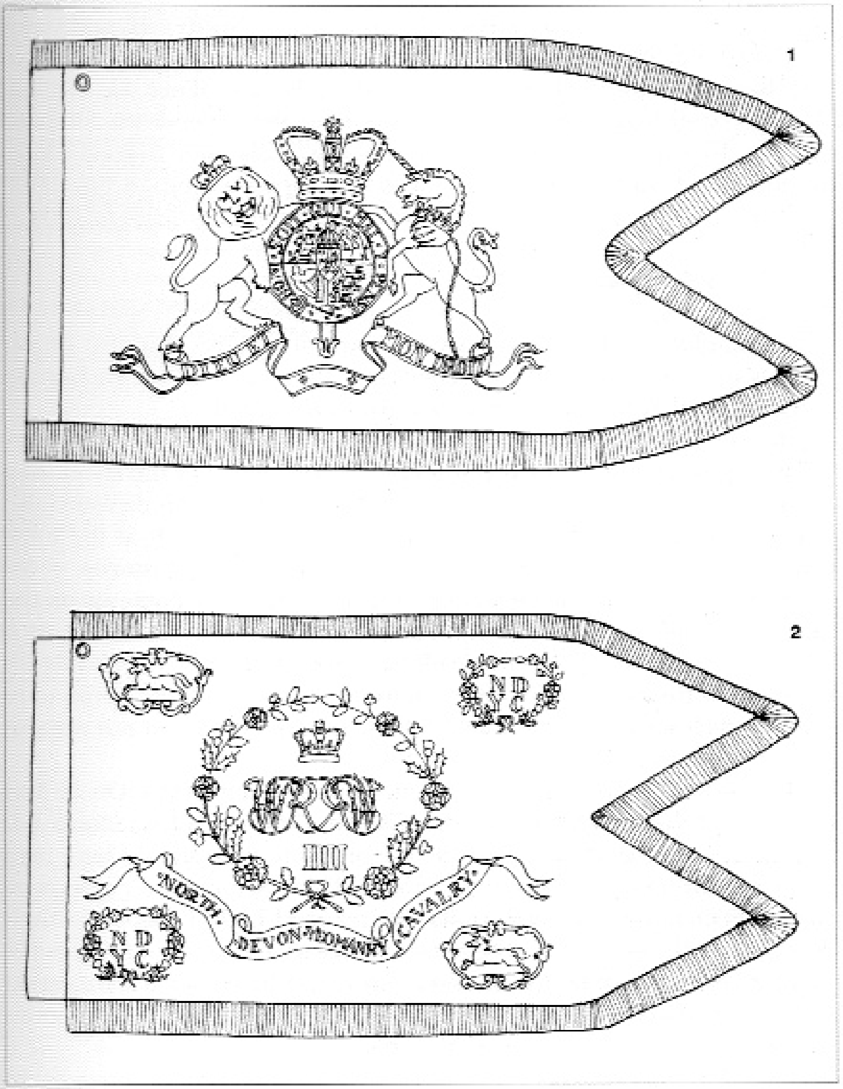

FRESHWELL CAVALRY.

Dragoons were all carrying four regimental guidons at around the same time. However, in times of peace when the regiments were reduced in size, they would carry fewer. In the 1760s, and again in the 1780s, several regiments of dragoon guards and dragoons had only two flags each.

Before 1770, inspecting general officers sometimes made reference to the standards or guidons of the regiment which they were inspecting in their report. After that date this was made compulsory, no doubt to ensure compliance with the new regulations.

In 1788 the remaining regiments of horse were converted into dragoon guards, but it is impossible to tell how many of them adopted the practice of carrying a standard and a guidon, or how quickly they did so. The 5th Dragoon Guards (the former 2nd Horse) certainly did not make the change immediately. Their regimental history confirms that the standards that had been presented in 1772 continued to be carried until 1796. Only then did the regiment receive its first issue of flags as dragoon guards. Indeed, as late as 1800 the inspection reports for these new regiments continue to speak of 'standards', rather than 'standards and guidons'. However, this is by no means conclusive since the word 'standard' was often used for any cavalry flag at this time.

The year 1801 saw two significant developments in flag design. The Act of Union with Ireland imposed changes in the composition of the Union wreaths and badges. The roses of England and the thistles of Scotland would in future be intertwined with an additional element, the shamrocks of Ireland. Battle honours, which were to become such an important feature of the flags of the British Army, were also introduced on a wide scale for the first time. The first such honour, for the campaign in Egypt, was awarded to three regiments: the 11th, 12th and 23rd Light Dragoons.



The Royal Standard (1) and a Squadron Standard (2) of the Royal North Devon Yeomanry, c.1831. (1) Sheet: crimson with a gold fringe. Scroll: blue with gold lettering and edge. (2) Sheet: blue with a gold fringe. Centre: crimson with a gold cipher. Scroll: crimson with gold letters. Source: Freeman, *Yeomanry of Devon*.

As regiments proliferated – a host of new units had been added to the establishment since the beginning of the wars against France – the problem of maintaining uniformity among their standards and guidons became ever more acute. In 1806, in an attempt to impose some kind of order, a new post was created. A member of the College of Arms was appointed as Inspector of Regimental Colours (see glossary; he was, nevertheless, responsible for all regimental flags including cavalry standards and guidons) whose duties were to ensure that all new flags conformed to regulations. At this period the Inspector's remit was confined to the regular army and did not include the auxiliary forces. It was only in 1855 that it grew to cover the colours of the militia, and it did not include those of the yeomanry until the early years of the 20th century.

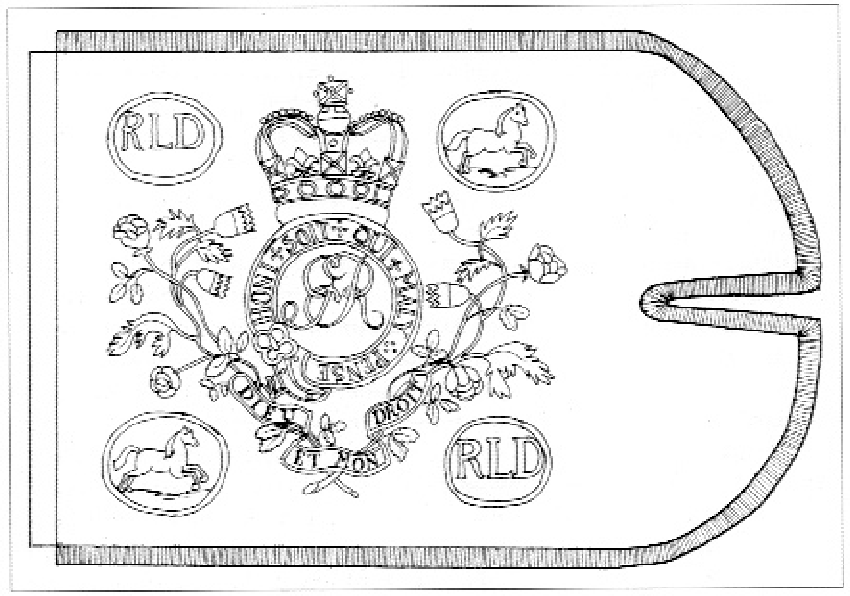
The first holder of the post was George Nayler, Norfolk Herald (later Sir George Nayler, Garter King of Arms), appointed on 4 June 1806. He was succeeded by William Woods, Norfolk Herald (later Sir William Woods, Garter King of Arms), on 11 November 1831. Woods was followed in turn by his son, Albert William Woods, Lancaster Herald (later knighted and Garter in his turn), who was appointed on 28 July 1842. Sir Albert Woods continued to occupy the post until his death in 1904.

The King's Regulations 1822

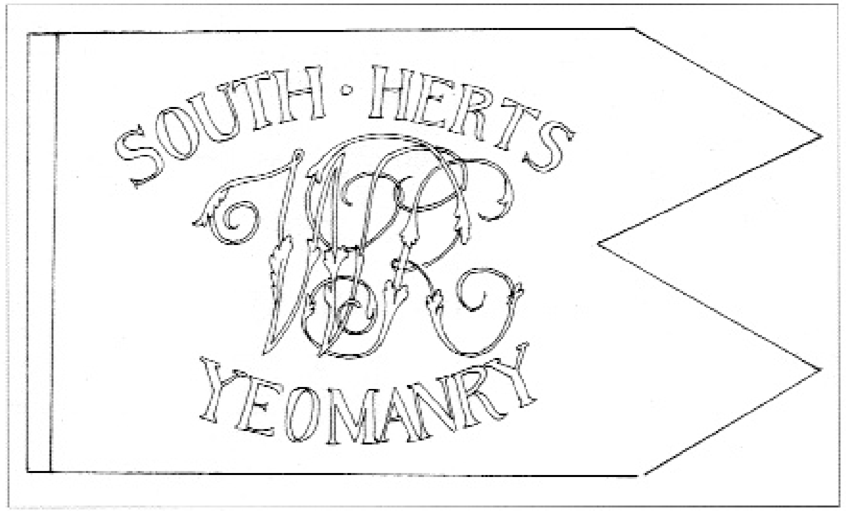
The King's Regulations of 1822 included the first printed regulations to cover standards and guidons since the warrant of 1768. The text simply repeats the instructions of its predecessor, the sole addition enshrining the changes that followed Union with Ireland in 1801.

In the years following the end of the Napoleonic Wars infantry colours were enhanced by the addition, in the centre of the sheet, of a crimson circlet bearing the regiment's subsidiary title. This measure also appears to have been extended to the cavalry, presumably at the same time. However, the illustrations in some regimental histories – for example, Cannon on the 14th King's Light Dragoons or Pomeroy on the 5th Dragoon Guards – show the circlet in use some years earlier. It is difficult to establish quite how reliable they might be. The feature is included in the illustrations here, on the grounds that these books were published closer to the 'lifetime' of the flag in question, but not without some reservation.

No further official change in practice followed until 1834. On 24 May of that year, General Order 12 specified that 'the use of standards [*sic* – another example of the imprecise use of this term, it should have read 'guidons'] by light dragoon regiments shall be discontinued', a decision which affected not only those units that retained Light Dragoon in their regimental title, but also the regiments of hussars and lancers. As far as the hussars were concerned, the decision may simply have been a codification of existing practice, for it is unlikely that they had carried their guidons on campaign since the Peninsular War and, indeed, they may have stopped carrying them altogether. Changing tactics had removed the need for flags in action. Rather than forming traditional serried ranks, the hussars now operated in a loose skirmish order, after the fashion of the new rifle regiments. Under these new tactics their guidons no longer had a function as a rallying point, and at the same time worked against concealment. Certainly, the 1820 inspection report for the 10th Hussars, the Prince of Wales's darlings, records that their guidons had been 'deposited at the Pavilion, Brighton, when the regiment became Hussars' (in 1806). This may also be true of the new regiments of Lancers. In 1821, it was reported that the guidons of the 16th had not been carried 'since they became lancers' (that is, since 1816).



The Guidon of the Ringwood Light Dragoons (Hampshire), 1802. Sheet: buff. Centre: crimson with gold embroidery. Garter: blue with gold embroidery. Cartouches: crimson with gold edges. Wreath: natural colours. Scroll: white with gold edges, black lettering. Source: actual flag.



The Guidon of the South Hertfordshire Yeomanry, presented during the reign of William IV. The plainness of the decoration contrasts with the damask silk of the sheet. Sheet: crimson. Lettering: yellow embroidery. The other side, now missing, may have borne a coat of arms. No fringe. Size: 21ins on the staff by 34ins long. Source: Sainsbury, J.D., *Hertfordshire Yeomanry and Artillery Uniforms, Arms and Equipment*, vol. 1 (Hertford, 1980).

A further codification of existing practice followed in 1837. From the time he was appointed in 1806, applications for new flags could only be made to the Inspector of Regimental Colours, via the Adjutant-General. However, this procedure had never been formalised in print, an omission that was rectified in the 1837 edition of the King's Regulations.

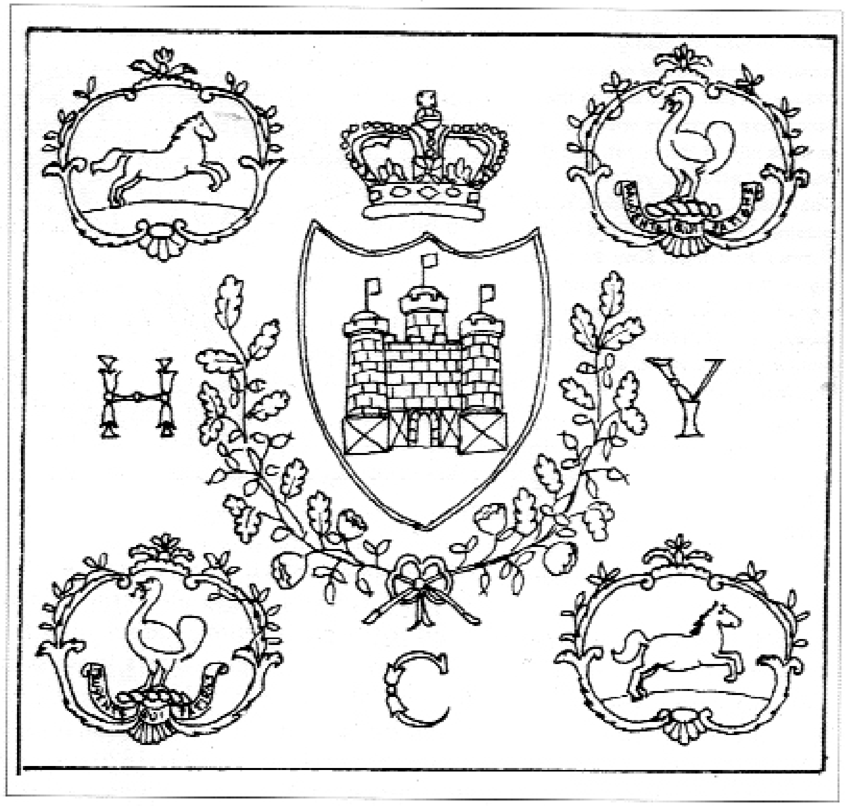
The 1844 Regulations

The 1844 regulations were contained within that year's edition of the Queen's Regulations. They included much more detail than previous editions, and introduced several changes. In the first of these, the King's Standard or Guidon became the 'Royal', while the Second became the 'Regimental'. 'King's' had remained in use up to this point, even though Queen Victoria had by then been on the throne for some seven years.

Other provisions concerned the dragoon guards. Previous regulations had always referred specifically to the 'standards and guidons' of the dragoon guards. However, the 1844 issue referred only to their 'standards'; the size of the sheet was left unaffected, but the corners of the standards were henceforth ordered 'to be square'. So, while it was not expressly forbidden, the implication was clear – the dragoon guards were no longer to carry a standard and a guidon, but two standards.

At the same time changes were made in the shape of the remaining guidons. The simple slit shown in the 1751 warrant was still in theory current practice, although some regiments of light dragoons had

The standard of the Holkham Yeomanry (Norfolk) presented in 1798 by Mrs Coke, the wife of the C.O., at their home, Holkham Hall. Sheet: yellow. Centre: a red shield with a gold castle. Corner badge: the Coke crest, a silver ostrich holding a gold horseshoe in its mouth, standing on a wreath of red, blue and white. Motto: that of the Coke family – 'Prudente qui patiens' – black lettering on silver. Source: Harvey, *Norfolk Yeomanry Cavalry*.



adopted a guidon in a pointed swallow-tail style. However, in 1844 a definitive amendment was made. The tails of the guidons were now defined as 'rounded off at twelve inches distance from the end of the Flag', thus giving them their current shape.

The 1844 issue also altered the rules governing the placement of battle honours on the flag. Until then it was the custom to place battle honours on all the flags of each regiment. Under the revised regulations they were now to be placed only on the Regimental Standard or Guidon.

The 1858 Regulations

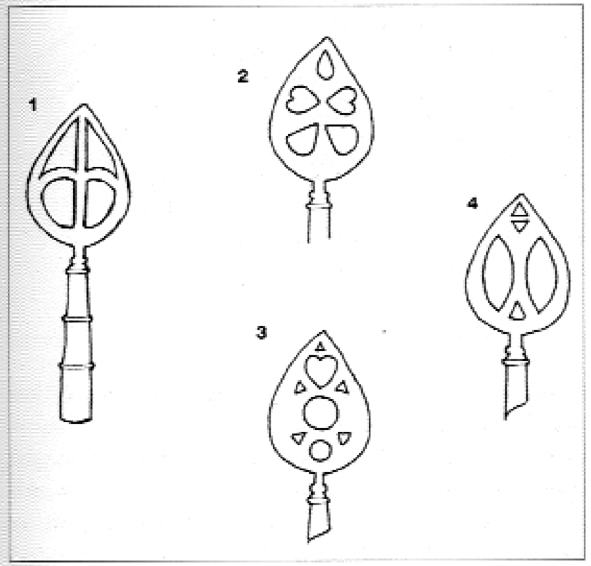
The 1858 regulations incorporated a significant change to the flags carried by cavalry regiments. A new measure, given royal approval in August of that year, stipulated that in future they were to carry only one flag, to be called the Royal, or First, Standard or Guidon. Instead of the Union badge this flag was to bear the authorised badge, motto and honours of the regiment, all on a crimson sheet. The cartouches in the second and third corners were still to bear the 'Rank of the Regiment', but this would now be on a field in the colour of the regimental facings instead of the original crimson. The cords and tassels were to be crimson and gold mixed, and the staff was to have an overall length of 9ft.

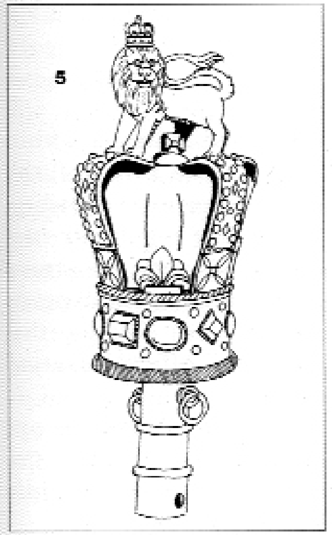
The regulations also prescribed a change to the finial of the infantry colours, replacing the spearhead with the Royal Crest of England, a standing lion on a crown. No specific reference was made to the cavalry in connection with this measure; indeed, the regulations continue to refer to a spearhead finial with regard to this arm of the service until 1868. However, it seems likely that this was simply an administrative oversight, and that new finials were supplied to both infantry and cavalry regiments at the same time.

The final regulation of this period, introduced in 1873, effected two small changes to the standards of the dragoon guards. The first of these increased the length of the sheet, from 2ft 5ins to 2ft 6ins; the second reduced the length of the staff from 9ft to 8ft 6ins. The guidons of the dragoons were unaffected.

CARRYING STANDARDS

Finials. A number of different patterns were used during this period: (1) the most common; (2) 23rd Light Dragoons, 1816; (3) 19th Light Dragoons, 1805; and (4) Royal Scots Greys, 1848. All were replaced by (5) in 1855.



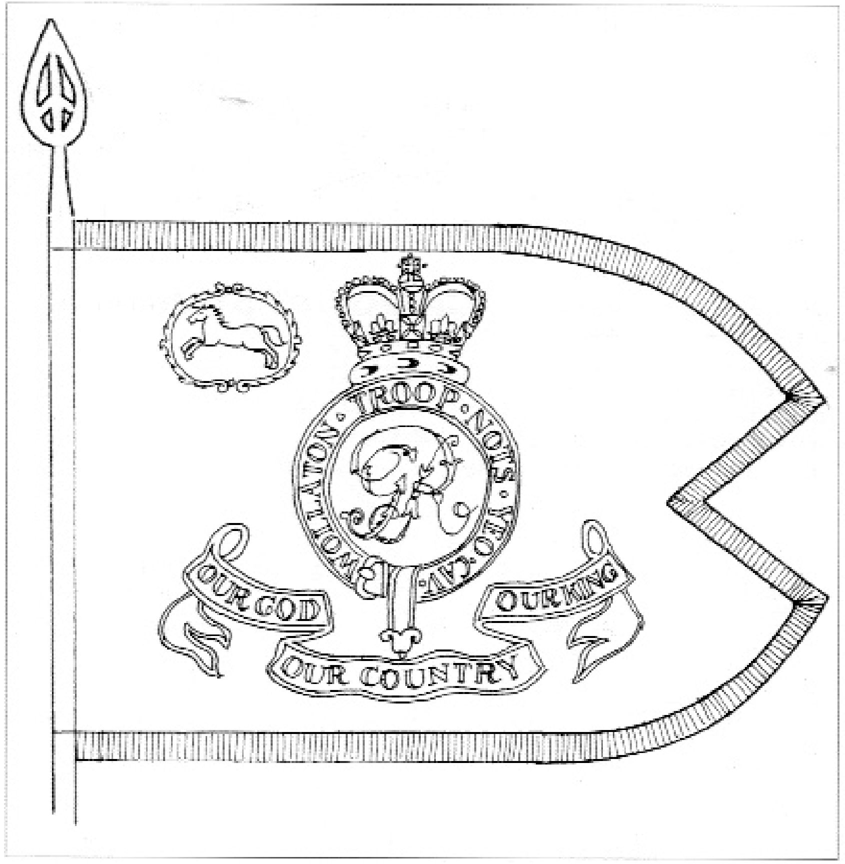


For most of the 18th century, each regiment entrusted its flags to the care of an officer with the rank of cornet. The standard or guidon was normally carried in the right hand; a long rectangular bracket attached to the staff was clipped to the standard belt, which was then passed over the left shoulder. At a later date, normal practice would be to place the butt-end of the staff into a 'bucket', attached to the stirrup; in the middle of the 18th century, however, it was more usual to tie the staff to the leg. This was to ensure that, even if the cornet were wounded, the standard itself would be recoverable, and unlikely to fall into enemy hands. The belt was to be of the same colour as the facings of the regiment, edged with the same lace as that worn on its saddlecloths and housings.

Since the cornets were the most junior of the regiment's officers, they were almost inevitably the youngest and the least robust. It must have been extremely difficult for these sometimes very young men to handle the standard as well as their horse, particularly in the heat of action when the cornet needed to be able to draw his sword in order to defend himself. The experience of the cavalry in the campaigns against the French in the Low Countries in 1793–95, particularly the victorious engagements at Beaumont and Willems, must have provoked some concern at Horse Guards, and the Board of General Officers commented on the problem in a report to the king:

'Standards', they began, 'have ever been held by all nations in the greatest veneration, and the preservation and defence of them constituted a point of much importance, the loss of them in action a disgrace and a great trophy to the enemy that captures them. In many services chosen men are appointed standard bearers which is looked upon as an honourable station and a reward for merit; in the British services the standards are consigned to the care of young cornets, who from their youth may not have either bodily strength or sufficient experience to defend the charge committed to their care. On this consideration we most humbly... recommend that standard bearers chosen from the non-commissioned officers whose tried courage and attachment to Your Majesty's service entitle them to the preference may be appointed to Your Majesty's regiments of cavalry with such additional pay as shall be judged adequate.'

The Guidon of the Wollaton Troop of Yeomanry, Nottinghamshire, 1817. The Troop was raised in 1817, and this standard was presented at Aspley Hall, by Mrs Willoughby, the wife of the Colonel. Sheet: dark blue with a gold fringe. Centre, garter and scroll: crimson with gold letters, with a reverse in buff. Note that only one cartouche appears on the flag. Source: Fellows, G. and Freeman, B., *Historical Records of the South Notts Hussars Yeomanry, 1794–1924* (Aldershot, 1928).


TROOP · NOTTS · YEO · CAV · WOLLATON
OUR GOD
OUR KING
OUR COUNTRY

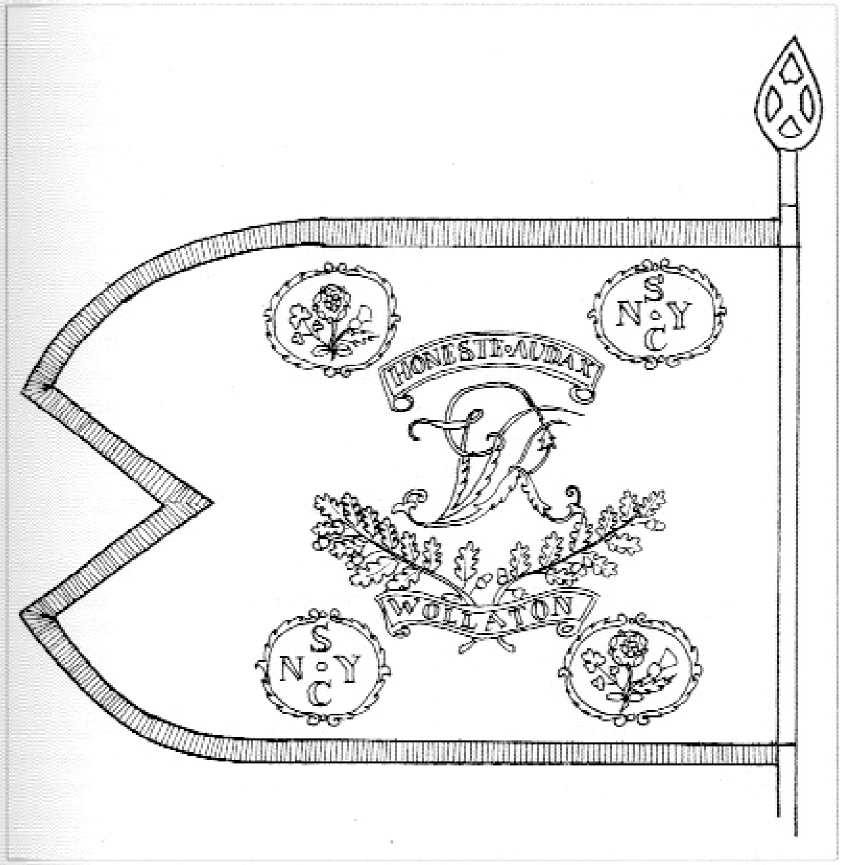
This proposal received royal approval in May 1796, when it was stipulated that standards should henceforth be carried by 'steady' non-commissioned officers. Any special rank or appointment for the standard-bearer was apparently considered unnecessary. Without any formal recommendation regarding his rank, the exact definition of 'steadiness' must have varied from regiment to regiment. The position was eventually clarified in an order from Horse Guards dated 30 November 1822, which stated that in future standards were to be carried by troop sergeant-majors only.

Standards on service

Standards and guidons were normally kept 'cased', that is within a green baize or oilskin case, which fitted over the finial of the staff and enclosed the whole of the sheet. They were uncased when in action, or when paying compliments. When two regiments met on the march, the junior corps was supposed to halt until the senior one had passed. Troops without standards were to pay compliments to troops with standards, whether senior or not. During this brief ceremony the standards were uncased and officers saluted with their swords.

On parade, the standard bearer was placed between the two troops of the squadron. When the regiment was drawn up in close order the standard bearer was placed in advance of the front rank, slightly behind the squadron commander.

The Guidon of the Wollaton Troop, South Nottinghamshire Yeomanry. The former independent Wollaton Troop became part of the Southern Regiment of Notts Yeomanry in July 1826. This guidon was presented c.1840. Sheet: dark blue with a gold cipher and silver oak sprays. Scrolls: dark blue with gold lettering and edging. Source: Fellows and Freeman, *South Notts Hussars Yeomanry.*



Throughout the 18th century it had been normal practice for cavalry regiments to carry their standards and guidons on active service. However, from the beginning of the 19th century this became increasingly rare. The case of the hussars and lancers has already been discussed, but it seems likely that other elements of the cavalry also began to leave their flags behind them when they were called into the field. Few, if any, of the cavalry regiments that served in the Peninsula took their flags with them on campaign. Some, like the 3rd Dragoon Guards and the Royal Dragoons, had left their standards at home; others, like the 4th Dragoon Guards, whose standards were 'left aboard the Admiral's ship', stored them temporarily in Lisbon.

This probably remained the situation as far as cavalry regiments were concerned until the end of the Napoleonic Wars, although some evidence suggests that matters were far from clear cut. In 1815 the three squadrons of the King's Dragoon Guards earmarked for service abroad were reminded to take their standards with them. Yet one of William Siborne's correspondents, Col. Clarke Kennedy of the 1st Royal Dragoons, in writing of the Union Brigade of the 1st, 2nd and 6th Dragoons, warned the historian of Waterloo, 'Please to recollect that none of the brigade took their standards into the field, they were left at home by order.' The case of the 1st Life Guards provides another example of this confusion. Their standards were brought out from England in April 1815, but were returned to the depot before the campaign had really begun. Nor do they appear to have been sent out again, even during the occupation of France.

Supply and costs

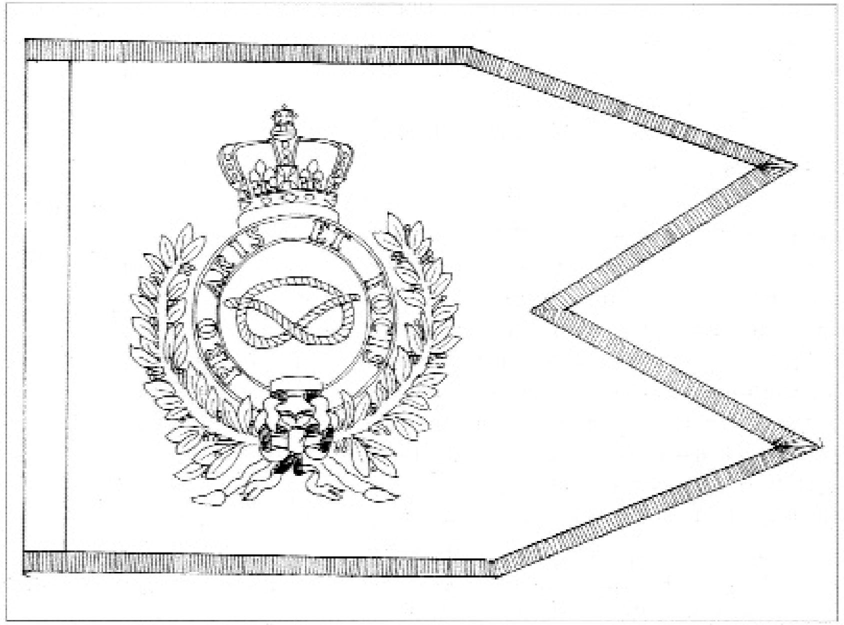
Although successive reforms had done much to reduce the influence of the regimental colonel over the clothing and equipment of his regiment, he nevertheless remained responsible for providing the standards or guidons out of his own pocket until 1857. Only then was their supply finally taken over by the War Office.

Each flag, whether standard or guidon, was made from two pieces of silk. The devices prescribed by regulation were embroidered onto each piece, and the two pieces were stitched together. A fringe was then added, either stitched to the flag or, in at least one case, held on with hooks and eyes. Increasingly, light dragoon regiments appear to have adopted painted rather than embroidered guidons, although no mention of any such change ever appeared in regulations. These were certainly lighter to carry, since the regimental devices could easily be painted on both sides of the same piece of silk.

The sheet was attached to the staff by a tightly fitted sleeve, a tube of silk backed by canvas or similar stiff, hard-wearing cloth. During the 19th century the weight of the embroidery meant that some extra measures had to be taken to keep the sheet at the top of the staff. The cords and tassels, previously merely ornamental, were now to be passed through a reinforced hole in the upper corner of the sheet, and then through a ring under the finial itself.

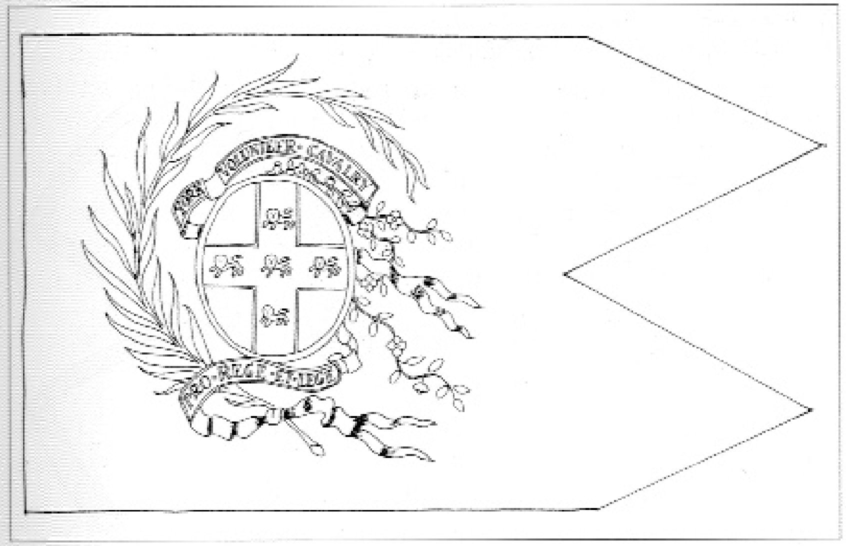
The cost of standards and guidons could vary considerably; prices certainly went up and down over time in line with the cost of labour and raw materials. A standard and guidon made up for the Horse Grenadier Guards during the 1770s cost £27 10s the pair; their replacements, ordered in 1785, cost only £25 (around £2,000 at 2001 prices – by comparison, a skilled workman could earn up to £1 a week at this time). Moreover, despite attempts to standardise their design, the quality of the cloth and decoration used was still susceptible to influence by the individual colonel. For example, the 1801 issue of flags to the 6th Dragoons was heavily embroidered on expensive damask silk instead of the plain silk called for by the regulations.

Prices were also dependent on the technical difficulty and richness of the work required. This is clearly shown by a detailed breakdown of the costs involved in supplying a new guidon to the 1st Dragoons in 1778. The flag cost £1 for the silk, £13 4s for the embroidery, £5 7s 10d for gold lace, fringe, cords and tassels, 19s for making up and adding the fringe, £2 18s for the staff, and a further 7s for the case. The embroidery alone thus accounted for almost two thirds of the total cost.



A Troop Guidon of the Staffordshire Yeomanry, presented on 1 October 1835 by the Duchess of Sutherland and others. Sheet: white with a gold fringe. Centre: blue quilted silk with a silver bullion Staffordshire knot, surrounded by a crimson circlet embroidered in gold. Wreath: embroidered in shades of green. Crown: gold with crimson cushions. Source: actual flag.

In addition the price could be determined by the type of decoration used. In 1769, the 3rd Horse received two standards at a cost of £18 16s 11d each. Around the same time, the 12th Light Dragoons received a standard 'as furnished to the 14th Dragoons', at a cost of only £13 13s 6d, plus a further 11s 4½d for the staff and 10s for the case. Since the light dragoons carried painted rather than embroidered guidons, this may well account for their lower cost. Even then the amount of painted detail could vary; the Third Squadron Guidon of the 10th Light Dragoons (Hussars), issued around 1820 (see Plate H3), displays a particularly rich and detailed wreath.

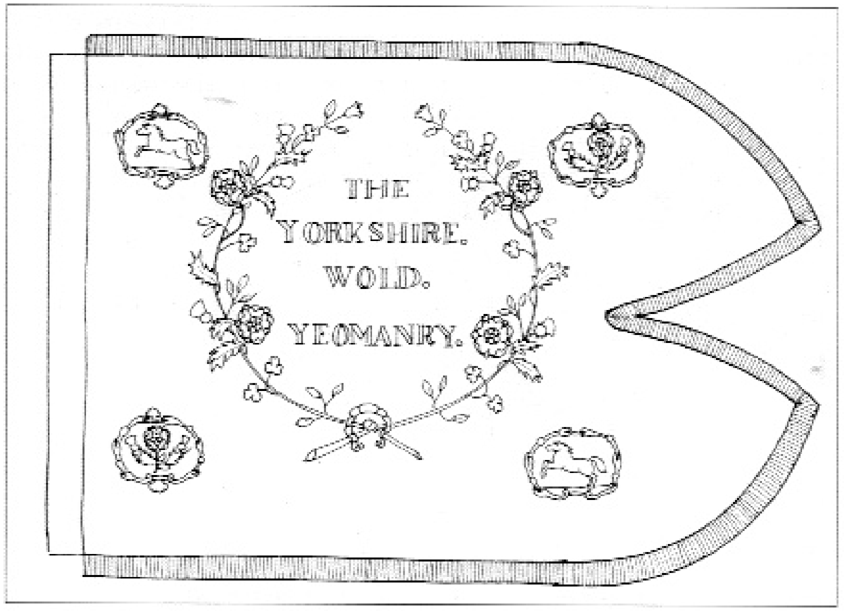


The Guidon of the York Volunteer Cavalry. Sheet: now rather faded, its original colour seems to have been a purplish mid-blue. Arms: arms of the city of York; white, a red cross bearing five gold lions; the cross and shield both edged in gold. Scrolls: crimson with gold lettering and white edges, with reverses in white, crimson and brown. Centre: a palm tree embroidered in natural shades of green, with rose stems in green with white flowers. The flag may have had a fringe; if so it is now lost. The unit was raised in 1798 and disbanded in 1802. Source: actual flag.

Belts were also embroidered, and once again the cost varied according to the richness of the work. The belt that accompanied the 1778 guidon of the Royal Dragoons cost only £1 5s, plus another 3s for its green baize case. A belt made for the 9th Dragoons cost £3 17s 1d, yet another bought for the same regiment cost exactly twice as much.

The number of years that a standard might be expected to remain in use was dictated largely by the activities of the regiment during its lifetime and could vary widely. Standards often became worn out during service abroad even if they were never taken out on campaign. The inspection returns frequently give the date when the standards entered and left service. The Queen's Dragoon Guards, for example, replaced their standards of 1754 in 1764. The 3rd Dragoon Guards replaced those issued in 1755 in 1763; this issue was replaced in its turn in 1769, but the latter was still in use in 1779. The standards issued to the 2nd Horse in 1750 were still in use in 1768, and may have lasted a further four years besides. In 1804, the 1st Dragoons still had two guidons of 1771 in service, alongside two of 1793; all had recently been repaired and altered following the Act of Union with Ireland in 1801.

The Army Clothing Regulations of 1857 specified that, under ordinary circumstances whilst on home service, standards should last for 20 years. It was understood that on foreign stations the climate and type of service involved might reduce this somewhat, but it was made clear nevertheless that the 20-year minimum must be respected as far as possible. Where standards failed to last the full term, a Board of Survey was appointed to examine them and report on the circumstances under which they had become unserviceable. Repairs to damaged standards and guidons were to be carried out by the regiment, which could then reclaim the expense involved. In 1881 a slight variation in procedure was introduced, in that regiments first had to obtain permission for the repair from the Director of Clothing.



One of the two Guidons of the Yorkshire Wolds Yeomanry Cavalry (East Riding of Yorkshire), originally raised in 1798, re-raised after the Peace of Amiens. The unit was disbanded in 1808. Sheet: dark green with a gold fringe and lettering. The second guidon was similar, but bore the motto 'Our-God / Our-Country. / And. / Our-King.' Source: actual flag.

The richness and condition of its standards must surely have reflected on the prestige of the regiment, and thus of its colonel, and some commanding officers were clearly willing to go to extra expense to secure this. Others, however, were unconcerned, permitting their flags to decay to little more than rags before replacing them. In 1776 two guidons of the 10th Dragoons, presented only in 1769, were in such a dilapidated condition that the inspecting officer commented, 'the King's standard [*sic*] may last another year; the second standard in rags and half blown away; standard belts much worse, and look shabby.'

Since the colonel of the regiment had customarily paid for its standards out of his own pocket, any unserviceable standard was deemed to be his property. This long-standing tradition was slow to die out. Even after 1857, when the state had begun to provide regimental standards and they could therefore be considered as government property, the Clothing Regulations of 1881 (para. 520) laid down that 'unserviceable colours, standards or guidons will, when replaced, be disposed of as the Officer Commanding the Regiment may deem fit.' Indeed, as late as 1896 an old standard of the 1st King's Dragoon Guards was presented to their colonel, Emperor Franz Joseph of Austria. Only with the Clothing Regulations of 1898 was the disposal of old flags finally removed from the discretion of the colonel; in future, the regulations specified that he would be required to deposit them in 'some church or other public building.'

This somewhat dismissive approach is perhaps typical of cavalry attitudes in general. Considering the high value they placed on captured enemy standards as prizes, it is remarkable how little attention was devoted by cavalry regiments to their own flags. Standards do not appear to have been consecrated when new, and there are no records of any particular ceremony associated with their presentation. They simply appear to have been taken into regimental service without any further comment. Such apparent indifference shows a marked contrast to attitudes prevalent in the infantry, where the presentation of new colours was a major event in the regimental year.

BADGES AND HONOURS

Cavalry regiments had long been honoured by the Crown for outstanding gallantry in the field and/or for particular services to the royal house. Sometimes these honours took the form of a subsidiary title such as the 'The King's' or the 'The King's Own'. On other occasions a regiment would receive a special badge, based on those of the royal family, which could then be displayed on its standards and guidons.

The first badge of this type was granted by King William III. He awarded a representation of his family arms and the motto *Virtutis Namurcensis praemium* (The reward for valour at Namur) to an infantry regiment (Hamilton's, later the 18th Foot) for gallantry at the siege of Namur in 1695. However, it was the succeeding Hanoverian monarchs who took up the idea and increased its use. Badges of this kind were certainly not a normal feature of the Hanoverian army; until the period of the Napoleonic invasion of 1804 their standards and colours tended to display rather old-fashioned allegorical scenes. Perhaps they were considered unnecessary in a state where, as Elector, the Hanoverian king exercised absolute power. In the more diverse constitutional monarchy of Great Britain, where the regiments were raised by individuals on behalf of the Crown, awarding royal badges can be seen as part of the drive to emphasise the duties of the regiment towards the sovereign and reinforce loyalty to the person of the king.

Receipt of these badges, collectively described in the 1751 regulations as 'Royal and Ancient', was intended as a special reward for the services of the regiment. During the 18th century they were granted only rarely, but their number increased during, and in the aftermath of, the Napoleonic Wars. By the beginning of the 19th century, however, it had become unusual to reward a cavalry regiment for distinguished service with a royal badge. Instead, the grants of this period combined badge and battle honour, like the sphinx and *Egypt* or the elephant and *Assaye*. These were the eventual successors to the first example of a badge of this type, the trophy of arms and name *Emsdorff*, commemorating the battle of Emsdorf and granted to the 15th Light Dragoons in 1759. The full list of badges awarded to cavalry regiments between 1747 and 1881 can be found in the accompanying tables.

Cavalry Battle Honours: Napoleonic

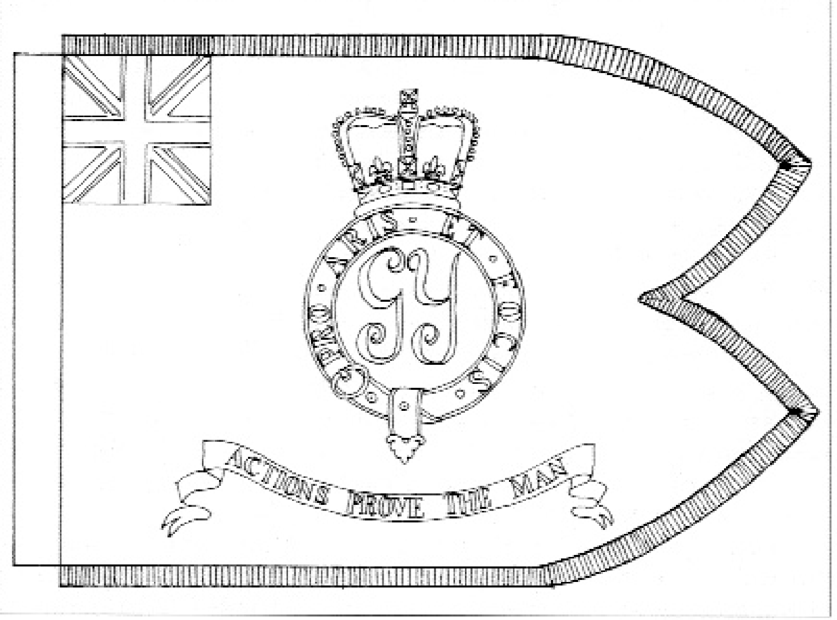
Albuhera (awarded 1819 – 4D, 1837 – 3DG)
Assaye (awarded 1807 – 19LD)
Douro (awarded 1837 – 14LD)
El Bodun (refused 1838 – 11LD)
Egmont-op-Zee (awarded 1820 – 15D)
Egypt (awarded 1801 – 11LD, 12LD, 23LD; refused 1827 – 8D)
Fuentes d'Onor (awarded 1818 – 16LD, 1820 – 14LD)
Hindoostan (awarded 1808 – 24LD, 1825 – 8D)
Leswaree (awarded 1808 – 25LD, 1825 – 8D)
Niagara (awarded 1820 – 19LD)
Nive (awarded 1818 – 16LD)
Orthes (awarded 1820 – 14LD)
Peninsula (awarded 1815 – 1 & 2 LG, RHG, 3DG, 4DG, 5DG, 1D, 3D, 4D, 7H, 9LD, 10LD, 11LD, 12LD, 13LD, 14LD, 15LD, 16LD, 18LD, 20LD, 23LD)
Sahagun (awarded 1832 – 15LD)
Salamanca (awarded 1814 – 5DG, 3D, 4D, 1818 – 16LD, 1820 – 14LD, 1838 – 11LD)
Seringapatam (awarded 1818 – 19LD, 22LD)
Talavera (awarded 1818 – 23LD, 1818 – 16LD, 1819 – 4D, 1820 – 14LD, 1826 – 3DG)
Toulouse (awarded 1819 – 4D, 1820 – 5DG, 1821 – 3D)
Villiers en Couches (awarded 1818 – 15LD)
Vittoria (awarded 1818 – 16LD, 1819 – 4D, 1820 – 5DG, 14LD, 1821 – 3D, 1826 – 3DG, 1832 – 18LD)
Waterloo (awarded 1815 – 1 & 2 LG, RHG, 1DG, 1D, 2D, 6D, 7D, 10LD, 11LD, 12LD, 13LD, 15LD, 16LD, 18LD, 23LD)

The 18th century practice had been for a regiment to be honoured on an individual basis, and the earliest award combining badge and battle honour, *Emsdorff*, stood firmly in this tradition. However, change was on the way. The government began to award honours to all the regiments present at a particular action. Then the Napoleonic Wars played a decisive role in determining future developments. The sheer duration of the conflict, the huge increase in the number of regiments involved and the sheer number of battles and engagements fought demanded a new way of distinguishing regiments for exceptionally meritorious service. There were just too many battles and too many regiments deserving of reward for badges alone to be sufficient. Increasingly the battle honour was used instead. Henceforth, each regiment would bear on its flag the name of the battle or campaign in which it had earned some distinction. The earliest examples can be found in the awards that combined both battle honour and badge, but very soon the name of the action stood alone.

The first battle or campaign to be granted to more than one regiment had been awarded in 1784 for the siege of Gibraltar, an action in which no cavalry regiment had taken part. For their first general award the cavalry had to wait until the campaign against the French in Egypt in 1801. The honour consisted of a badge depicting a sphinx lying on a plinth, together with the word *Egypt*, surrounded by a laurel wreath, and was granted to the 11th, 12th and 23rd Light Dragoons.

The next 15 years saw a continuous succession of battles. Even after the end of the Napoleonic Wars, British regiments continued to find themselves engaged in campaigns in Africa and India, and the list of battles and campaigns honoured continued to grow. A full list of the honours granted to cavalry regiments between 1747 and 1881 can be found in the accompanying tables. Note that regiments – light dragoons, hussars and lancers – which had ceased to carry guidons in 1834 continued to receive battle honours. These were borne on regimental appointments, such as the sabretache, or on the banners hung on the regiment's kettledrums.

Prior to the 1840s only a handful of battle honours were the subject of an immediate grant; Egypt, Peninsula and Waterloo were the most notable. Instead, the regimental colonels were obliged to lobby for honours with Horse Guards. As in the case of expenditure on new standards, some colonels felt more keenly the obligations of prestige and battled harder than others. Indeed, some continued to lobby for years after a battle took place. The honour for Vittoria was awarded to seven regiments over a period of fourteen years as successive colonels awoke to the possibilities. The Royal Dragoons and the Royal Scots Greys, who captured French eagles at Waterloo in 1815, did not receive their eagle badges until 1838, 23 years later, while the honour for the battle of the Douro was granted to the 14th Light Dragoons almost 30 years after the event. Perhaps to avoid this unseemly jostling, from the time of the Sikh Wars onwards Horse Guards simply granted battle honours to the regiments taking part, removing the need for individual applications.



The Guidon of the Grimston Yeomanry (East Riding of Yorkshire), 1804. Sheet: buff with gold fringe. Centre: crimson with gold embroidery. Garter and scroll: blue with gold embroidery. Source: Crown Imperial, March 1983, p.29.

Despite their long wait, the regiments discussed above can still be considered fortunate. The general principle adopted by Horse Guards in the face of regimental lobbying was to try to refuse as many requests as possible, on the grounds that the more rarely such honours were awarded, the more valuable they became as distinctions. The system of inspection by a member of the College of Arms, introduced in 1806, was used to question every device on a regiment's standards. The onus then lay on that regiment to prove its claims.

The office of the Commander-in-Chief possessed a number of arguments that it could and did deploy to reject applications for badges and honours. They could be turned down on the grounds that no honour could be granted if no medal had been issued for the battle in question. In July 1838, for example, the 11th Light Dragoons were refused the honour El Bodon (25 September 1811) for exactly this reason, although its application for the honour Salamanca, for which a clasp to the General Service Medal was issued, was granted. Some were refused on the grounds that the services rendered by the regiment were insufficiently 'arduous' to merit such a distinction; others, because the regiment had failed to make its application through the general officer commanding on the day the engagement took place. Most commonly they were denied because too much time had elapsed between date of the action in question and the date of the application.

This 'passage of time' argument gradually coalesced to produce two rulings defining a date before which no grant of honours could be considered. These dates were completely arbitrary. In 1824, for example, regiments were told that it would be impossible to consider a grant of additional honours for any action prior to 1793. In 1846 this ruling was relaxed somewhat, but remained no less capricious; in future, honours would not be countenanced for any action prior to the battle of Minden in 1759. Inevitably this produced a number of injustices, which affected in particular the senior regiments of the army. For example, the campaigns of the Duke of Marlborough, one of the British Army's greatest generals, were not celebrated in any way;

Cavalry Battle Honours: Post-Napoleonic

Abyssinia (awarded 1868 – 3DG)
Affghanistan [sic] (awarded 1840 – 4LD, 16L)
Afghanistan 1878–79 (awarded 1881 – 10H)
Afghanistan 1878–80 (awarded 1881 – 9L, 15H)
Afghanistan 1879–80 (awarded 1881 – 6DG, 8H)
Ali Masjid (awarded 1881 – 10H)
Aliwal (awarded 1847 – 16L)
Alma (awarded 1855 – 4LD, 8LD, 11LD, 13LD, 17L)
Balaklava (awarded 1855 – 4DG, 5DG, 1D, 2D, 4LD, 6D, 8LD, 11LD, 13LD, 17L)
Bhurtpore (awarded 1826 – 11LD, 16L)
Cabool [sic] 1842 (awarded 1844 – 3LD)
Central India (awarded 1863 – 8H, 12L, 14LD, 1879 – 17L)
Charasiah (awarded 1881 – 9L)
Chillianwallah (awarded 1852 – 3LD, 9L, 14LD)
Delhi 1857 (awarded 1863 – 6DG, 9L)
Ferozeshah (awarded 1847 – 3LD)
Ghuznee (awarded 1840 – 4LD, 16L)
Goojerat (awarded 1852 – 3LD, 9L, 14LD)
Inkerman (awarded 1855 – 4LD, 8LD, 11D, 13D, 17L)
Kabul 1879 (awarded 1881 – 9L)
Kandahar 1880 (awarded 1881 – 9L)
Capture of Lucknow (awarded 1863 – 2DG, 7H, 9L)
Relief of Lucknow (awarded 1863 – 9L)
Maharajpore (awarded 1844 – 16L)
Moodkee (awarded 1847 – 3LD)
Pekin (awarded 1861 – 1DG)
Persia (awarded 1859 – 14LD)
Punjaub [sic] (awarded 1852 – 3LD, 9L, 14LD)
Punniar (awarded 1844 – 9L)
Sevastopol (awarded – 1DG, 4DG, 5DG, 6DG, 1D, 2D, 4LD, 6D, 8LD, 10H, 11LD, 12L, 13LD, 17L)
Sobraon (awarded 1847 – 3LD, 9L, 16L)
Taku Forts (awarded 1861 – 1DG)

at the same time, honours commemorating other actions, relatively minor by the standards of 1704, were awarded on a much more liberal basis. Pressure to introduce a more equitable distribution of honours resulted in the formation of a committee chaired by Maj. Gen. Sir Archibald Alison. Alison's committee did not report until 1882, and so lies just outside the scope of the present work. It certainly addressed a number of grievances; honours for Marlborough's victories, for Dettingen and for Wolfe's triumph at Quebec were all granted at this time. But by no means all the remaining anomalies were corrected, and a second committee had to be appointed in 1909.

Older devices, particularly mottoes, could also be refused because they had not appeared in previous regulations. In August 1838 the 11th Light Dragoons, refused the honour El Bodon a month previously, were unlucky again, this time over the matter of a motto, *Motus componere*. The regiment had apparently been using this motto for some time; it had, they claimed, appeared on a guidon of *c*.1795, whilst the colonel of the regiment, Lord Cardigan, asserted in his submission to the War Office that the 11th had borne the motto since it was raised in 1715. Nevertheless, the Commander-in-Chief rejected Cardigan's request, refusing to recommend for royal approval any badge or motto not recognised in the 1751 or 1768 Warrants.

In 1844 the 1st Royal Dragoons was discovered to be using the motto *Spectemur agendo* on their guidons, and, like the 11th, was asked to support their claim. The motto was certainly to be found on the regimental flags by 1807, as the return of that year shows, but it proved impossible to trace any document authorising its adoption. The regiment attempted to support its case with a number of doubtful assertions. It claimed that the motto had been 'inadvertently omitted' from both the 1751 and the 1768 Regulations. Then it sought some historical justification, maintaining that this was the motto of the 3rd Duke of Marlborough, colonel of the regiment in 1739. Its supposed omission of the motto from successive issues of the regulations is inherently implausible, since personal mottoes of this type were specifically prohibited after 1747, and it is extremely unlikely that a 'Royal' regiment would bear the motto of a commoner. The regiment continued to press its claim, however, and despite the lack of evidence a formal grant was finally made in 1856.

It can be seen, therefore, that refusal on these grounds was not automatic. The interplay of personality and influence must surely have played its part in determining the outcome of the lobbying process. In this case, the regiment made its initial application at a time when the Duke of Wellington was Commander-in-Chief, but eventually succeeded during the tenure of his successor, the Duke of Cambridge.

Badges of the Cavalry Regiments, 1747–1881

1st King's Dragoon Guards The royal cipher within the Garter.

2nd Queen's Dragoon Guards The cipher CARA within the Garter (this was the cipher of Queen Caroline, wife of King George II, who was queen in 1727 when the regiment received its subsidiary title).

3rd Prince of Wales's Dragoon Guards The Prince of Wales's feathers; with, in one corner a sun rising from behind clouds, in another a red dragon; with the motto *Ich dien* (I serve).

4th Royal Irish Dragoon Guards The star of the Order of St. Patrick and a harp and crown (granted 1838).

5th Dragoon Guards The cipher of Princess Charlotte of Wales (on receiving her name as a subsidiary title in 1804), used until 1838; the motto *Vestigia nulla retrorsum* (Not a step backward), in use by 1768; the regiment used a badge of a running white horse between 1796 and 1804, but was not allowed to continue to do so.

1st Royal Dragoons The royal crest of England; a French eagle, representing that captured at Waterloo (1838); and the motto *Spectemur agendo* (We are judged by our deeds), confirmed in 1856, although in use in 1806.

2nd Royal North British Dragoons A thistle within a circlet of the Order of St Andrew, which bears the motto *Nemo me impune lacessit* (No-one harms me with impunity); a French eagle representing that captured at Waterloo (1839).

3rd King's Own Dragoons A galloping white horse within the Garter, with the motto *Nec aspera terrent* (Hardship has no terrors); according to the regimental history, this was granted to commemorate the battle of Sherrifmuir in 1715.

5th Royal Irish Dragoons A gold harp under a crown.

6th Inniskilling Dragoons A castle on a blue circle (the castle of Enniskillen, where the regiment was raised).

7th Queen's Own Dragoons The cipher CARA within the Garter (see 2nd QDG above).

8th Hussars A harp and crown, with the motto *Pristinae virtutis memores* (Mindful of our ancient valour), use confirmed in 1825, but according to the regiment in use by 1777. It is not in either the 1751 nor the 1768 Warrants, but may have its origins in the regiment's service in Spain during the War of the Spanish Succession, since the other regiment with this motto, the 2nd Foot, was present on the same campaign.

11th Light Dragoons A sphinx and *Egypt* (1802), to commemorate that campaign.

12th Light Dragoons The Prince of Wales's plumes, with the motto *Ich dien*, on receiving the subsidiary title 'Prince of Wales's'(1768); a sphinx and Egypt (1802) to commemorate that campaign.

14th Light Dragoons A Prussian eagle, on receiving the subsidiary title 'Duchess of York's Own' (1798); the royal crest, on receiving the subsidiary title 'King's' (1830).

15th Light Dragoons When raised, probably a badge of a stag and a white buckhound, with the motto *The swift, the vigilant and bold* – the latter certainly appeared on the regiment's drums; a trophy of arms and the name *Emsdorff*, to commemorate the battle of Emsdorf (1759); the 1768 Warrant omits the trophy, and gives the motto as *Emsdorff*. Hinde's *Discipline of the Light Horse* states the motto to be *Merebimur Emsdorff; Merebimur* (We will deserve [our honours]) was confirmed as the regimental motto in 1856.

16th Light Dragoons The queen's cipher (the letter C, doubled and reversed – the cipher of Queen Charlotte, the wife of King George III), with the motto *Aut cursu, aut cominus armis* (Either at the charge, or hand-to-hand) (1766), on receiving the subsidiary title 'Queen's', for the campaign in Portugal, 1762.

17th Light Dragoons A death's head with the motto *Or glory* (c.1763), allegedly to commemorate the death of Gen. James Wolfe (the motto was suggested by the first colonel of the regiment, Gen. John Hale, who had brought the news of Wolfe's death to England from Canada in 1759).

19th Light Dragoons An elephant and *Assaye* (1807), for the battle of 1803.

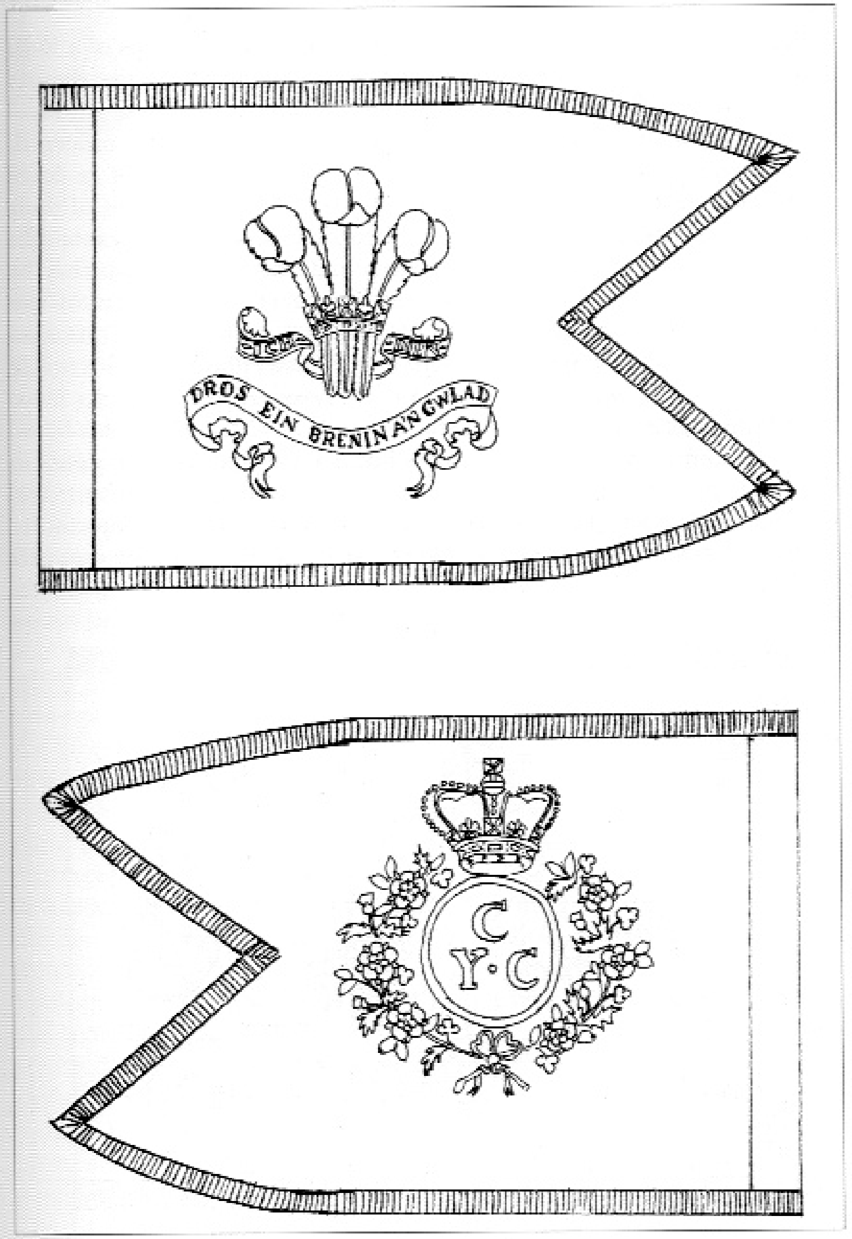
20th Light Dragoons From 1792 to 1805 the subsidiary title 'Jamaica', and from 1797 bore the badge of an alligator on its helmets, but it is not known whether its use was extended to the regiment's guidons.

23rd Light Dragoons A sphinx and *Egypt* (1802), to commemorate that campaign.

24th Light Dragoons An elephant and *Hindoostan* (1806), for service in India, especially at Allyghur and at Delhi, 1803.

25th Light Dragoons An elephant and *Laswaree* (1806), to commemorate that battle.

The Guidon of the Carmarthenshire Yeomanry Cavalry, presented by Lady Dynevor on 17 September 1804. Sheet: scarlet with a gold fringe. Centre: the Prince of Wales's plumes in silver within a gold coronet. Motto scroll: blue with gold decorations. Main scroll: the motto *Dros ein brenin a'n gwlad* (For King and country) in black lettering on silvery blue. Reverse: gold letters within a gold ring. Source: *Crown Imperial*, March 1983, p.34.

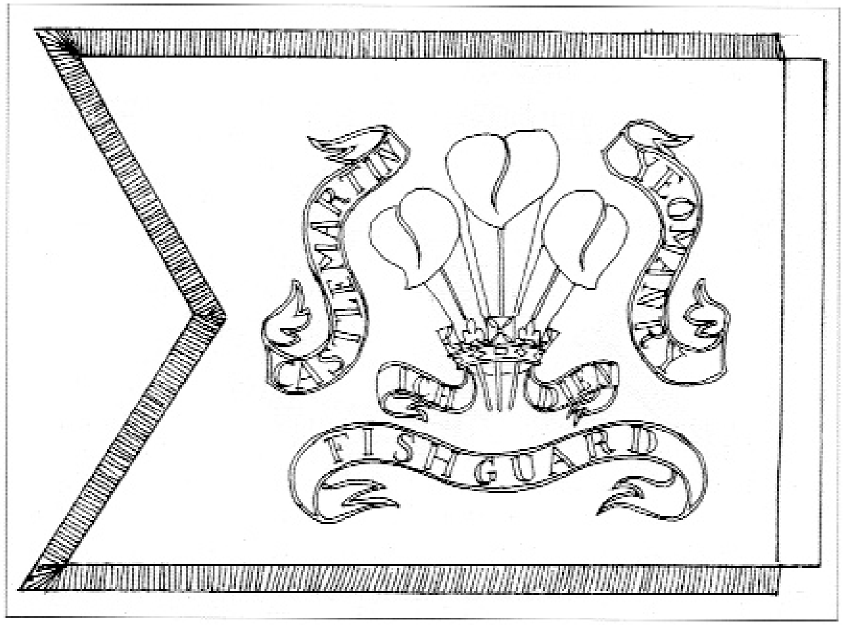

ICH DIEN
DROS EIN BRENIN A'N GWLAD
C
Y·C

THE YEOMANRY

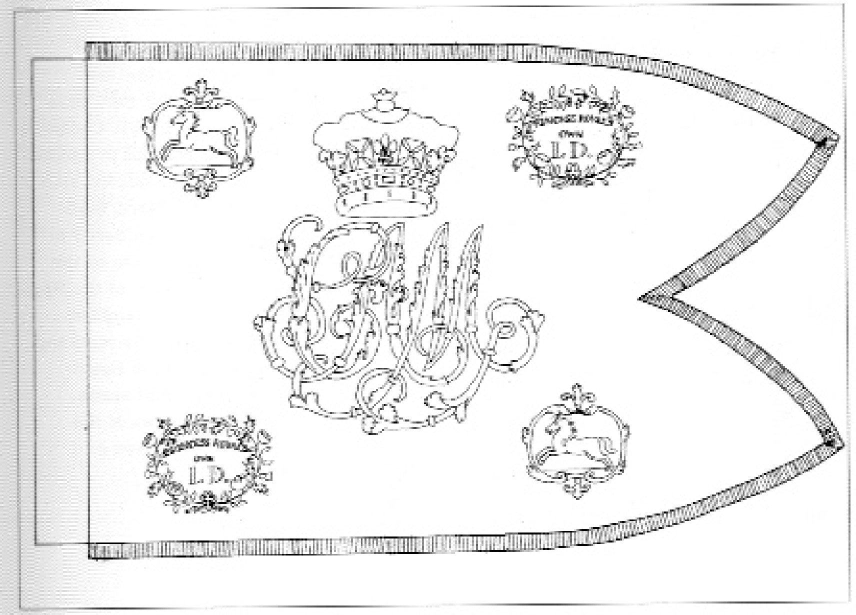
Other mounted units, collectively known as the yeomanry, supplemented the cavalry regiments of the regular army. These yeomanry regiments were raised in response to the French invasion scare of 1794 to add to the auxiliary forces available for call-out in times of war or civil unrest. However, they formed something of an administrative anomaly, in that they did not come under the full time control of the War Office. During times of peace they were the responsibility of the Home Office, acting through the lord lieutenant of each county; only once war had been declared did that responsibility pass to the War Office. This may help to explain why so many of their standards failed to conform to the regulations which covered the standards and guidons of the regular cavalry.

Many yeomanry units carried standards that bore the arms of a local dignitary, a practice expressly forbidden to the regiments of the regular army since 1747. However, the yeomanry was composed of local regiments, which set some pride on being locally raised and officered. They frequently owed their origins to the generosity of a local landowner; ensuring that their standards bore the coat of arms of their benefactor repaid his actions and confirmed his leading position within the community. Indeed, some regiments took this one stage further by recording the name of the donor on the sheet. The guidon of the Ringwood Light Dragoons of 1802 bore an embroidered inscription to this effect; and the standard presented to Prince Albert's Own Norfolk Yeomanry in 1843 bore scrolls inscribed 'Presented by the Right Hon. Lord Wodehouse' and '1843'.

Other units, like the Yarmouth Volunteer Cavalry (see the notes to Plate 12), bore the coat of arms of the local borough. However, civic heraldry at this time was little developed and did not extend beyond the borough towns. There were few county arms as such (county councils were not created until 1888), and few counties possessed any other kind of distinct symbol. One that did was the county of Kent, and use of the white horse was widespread amongst regiments raised in that area. It did no harm that the white horse, even if depicted differently, was also the badge of the Hanoverian dynasty. Some units used the arms of the county town to symbolise the county as a whole. The 'Provincial Standard' of the 1st West Riding Yeomanry carried the arms of the city of York, even though the regiment was raised in the Doncaster area and had no connection with the city.



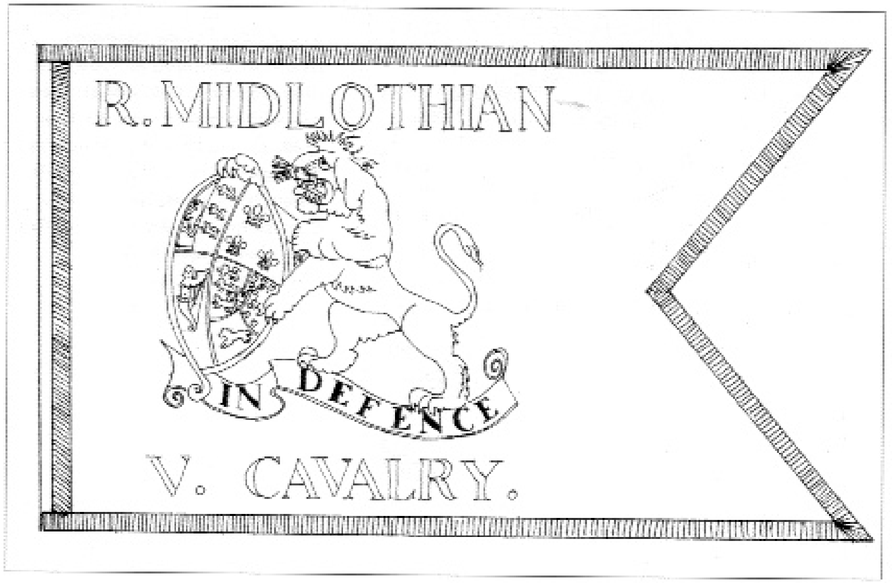
The Guidon of the Castlemartin Yeomanry (Pembrokeshire), with its unique battle honour, Fishguard. Sheet: light blue with a silver fringe. Centre: silver plumes within a gold coronet. Motto scroll: dark blue and gold. Other scrolls: edges and lettering embroidered in silver directly onto the sheet. Source: Jones, E.H.S., *The Last Invasion of Britain* (Cardiff, 1950).



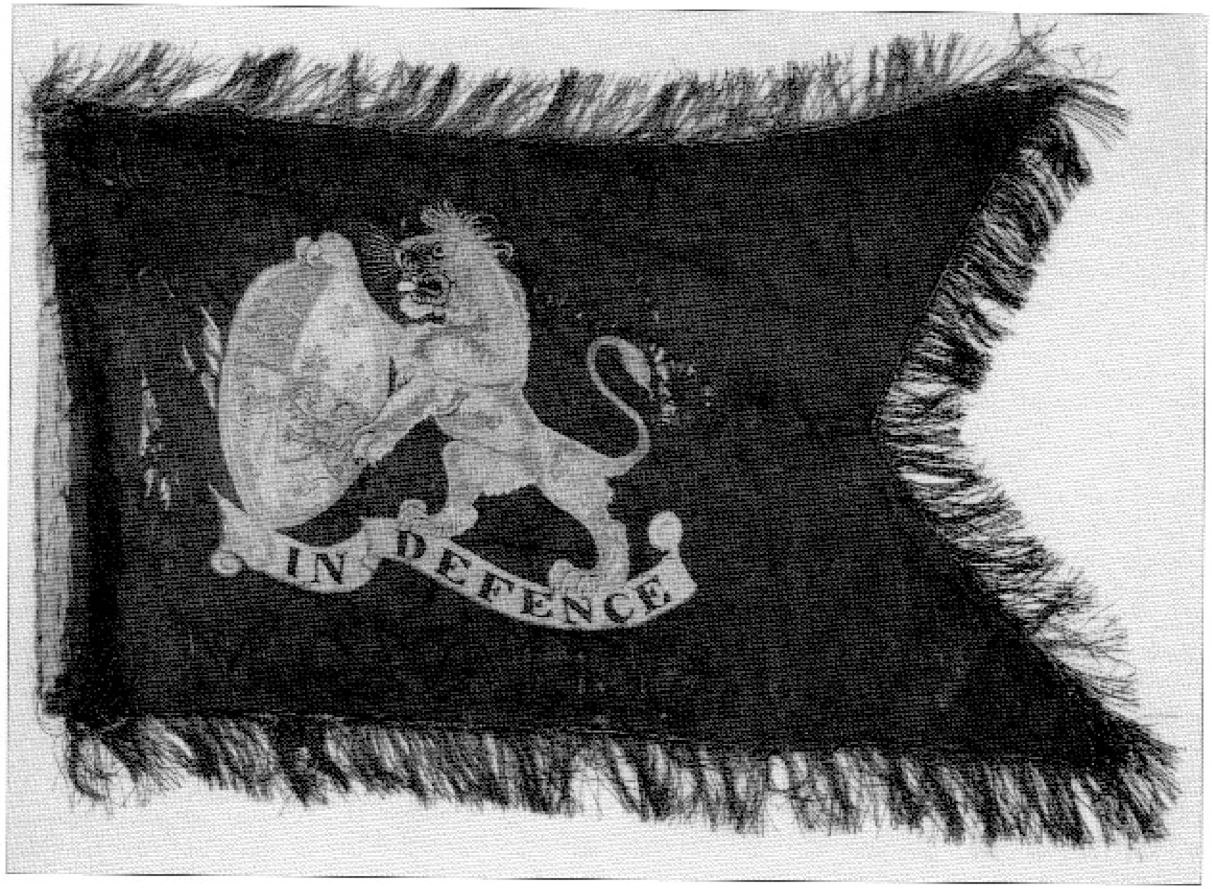
The Third Guidon of the Princess Royal's Own Light Dragoons, raised in Scotland in 1795 and disbanded in 1800. Sheet: green silk with a gold fringe. Cipher: gold. At one time, the sheet had the figure 3 in 'a small medallion' below the cipher, but this had disappeared by the time the flag was photographed. Source: *JSAHR*, vol. 27, p.83.

Yet others – for example, the North Devon Yeomanry, the Freshwell Cavalry and the Loyal Lincoln Rangers (on the Royal Standard only) – used some patriotic symbol such as the royal cipher or coat of arms. This would be accompanied by a suitable motto; *Pro aris et focis* (For hearths and homes) was among the most popular. Welsh units made frequent use of the Prince of Wales's feathers and coronet, no matter where in the principality they were raised. Some, like the Denbighshire Yeomanry and the Wrexham Yeomanry, went even further and adopted the red dragon as a corner badge instead of the running white horse.

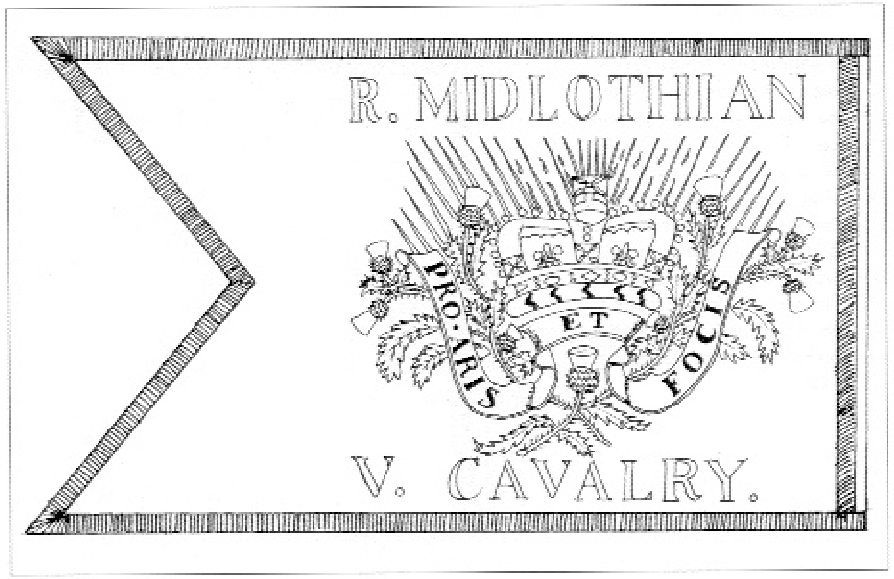
While the symbol most widely used by Welsh regiments to indicate their nationality was a creation of their English overlords, Scottish regiments could and did draw upon an emblematic vocabulary indigenous to their native land. Saint Andrew, for example, figured on the Second Standard of the Ayrshire Yeomanry, presented in 1829. The thistle was also displayed prominently. The guidon of the Royal Midlothian Volunteer Cavalry bore a wreath of thistles on one side and the Scottish version of the royal coat of arms on the other. The guidon of the Tranent Troop, East Lothian Yeomanry Cavalry gave the royal cipher a Scottish twist; it was surrounded by the customary thistle and rose, but these were reversed from their usual positions, giving greater prominence to the thistle which now lay closest to the hoist. But Scottish yeomanry could follow the style set by their English counterparts as well. The 1829 standards of the Ayrshire Yeomanry bore the arms of the three

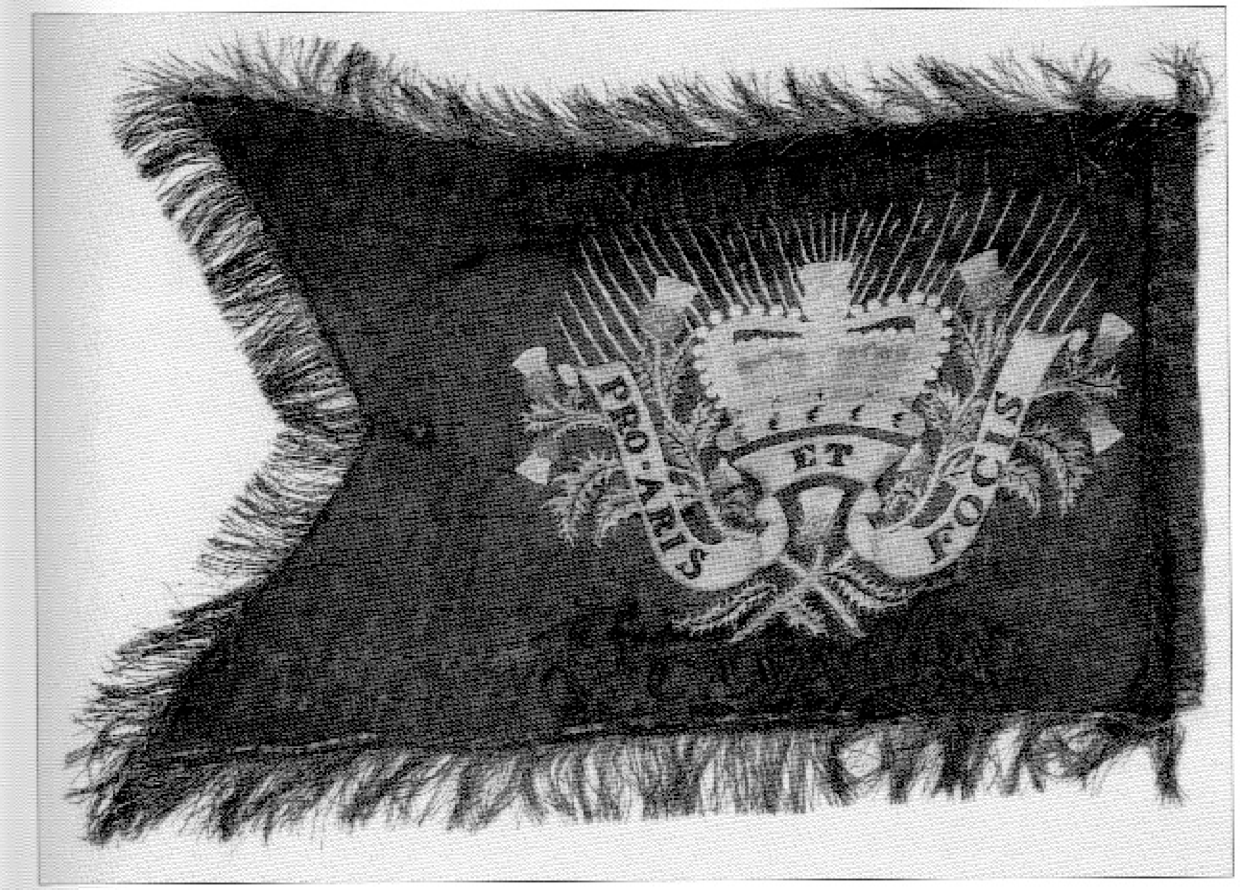

R. MIDLOTHIAN
IN DEFENCE
V. CAVALRY.

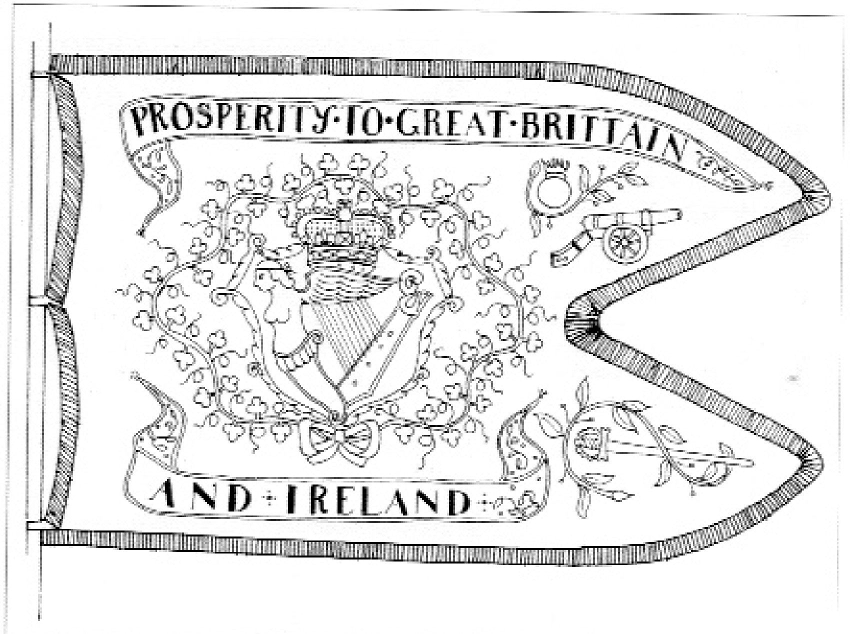
Actual flag, and sketch: the Guidon of the Royal Midlothian Volunteer Cavalry. Sheet: dark blue with a gold fringe. Centre: a lion embroidered in shades of red. Scroll: golden yellow with black letters. Main lettering: embroidered in gold. Note the use of the Scottish version of the Royal arms, with the Scottish and English arms reversed, and the Scottish Royal crest-beast and motto. (Photo: Trustees of the National Museums of Scotland)



Actual flag, and sketch: the reverse of the same flag. Decorations: all embroidered in golden yellow. Motto: black. Regimental name: gold. (Photo: Trustees of the National Museums of Scotland)


R. MIDLOTHIAN
PRO ARIS ET FOCIS
V. CAVALRY.

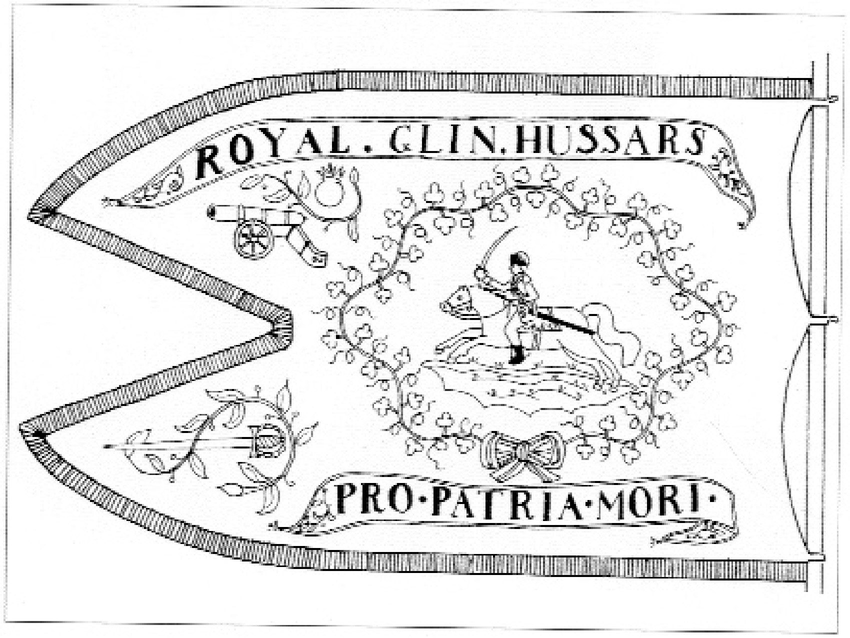

PRO ARIS ET FOCIS



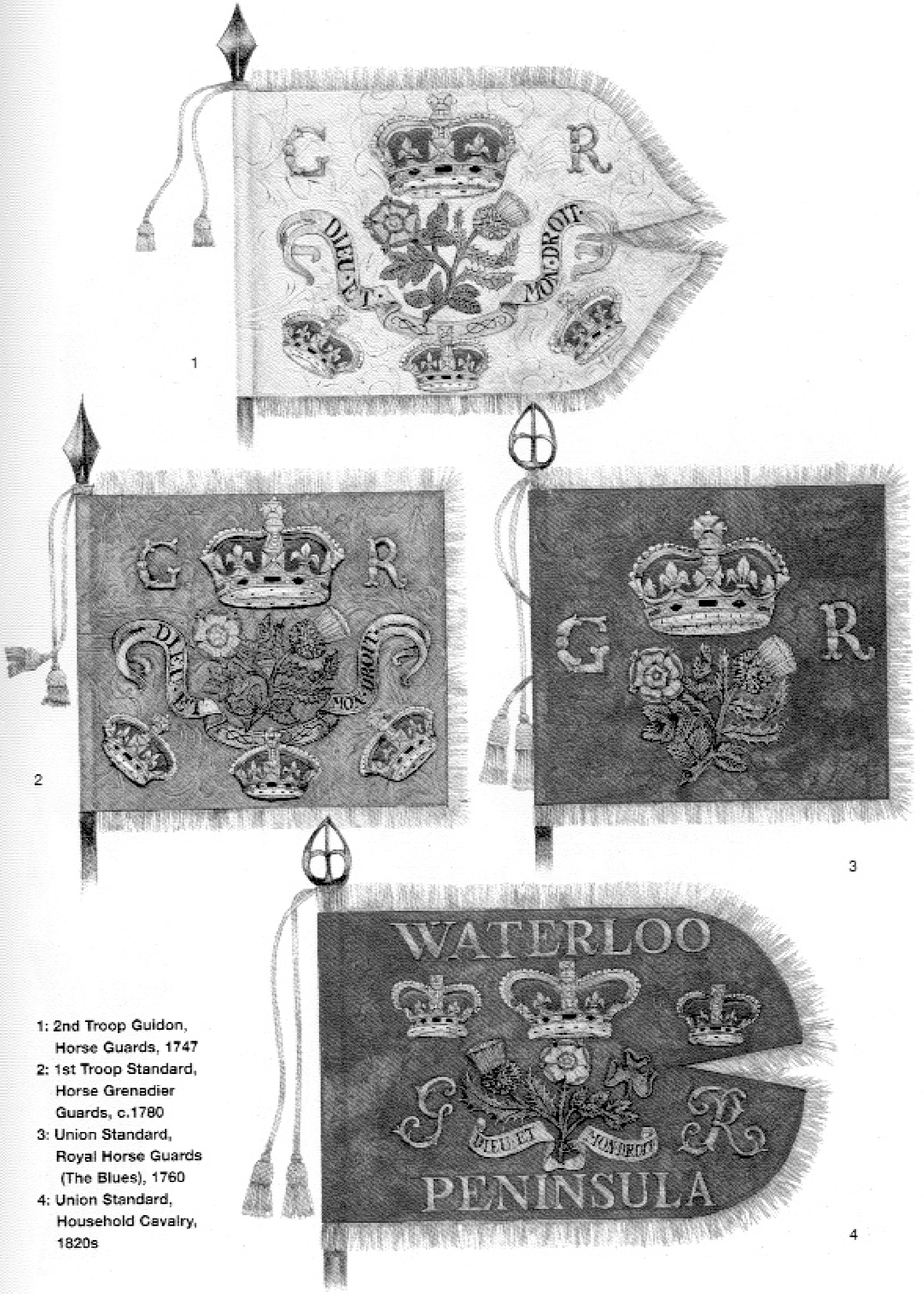
The Guidon of the Royal Glin Hussars, c.1776. Sheet: light green with a gold fringe on all four sides. Wreath: dark green around a harp and crown in gold. Ribbon: dark green edged in a lighter shade. Scrolls: white edged in gold with black lettering and decoration. Other devices: a sword in grey; a cannon in grey and brown; a bomb in grey with red flames; each surrounded by a wreath in green. Source: *Bulletin of the Irish Georgian Society*, vol. 33, p.15.

main districts of the county – Carrick, Kyle and Cunningham – which were derived from personal arms, on the reverse of the three standards.

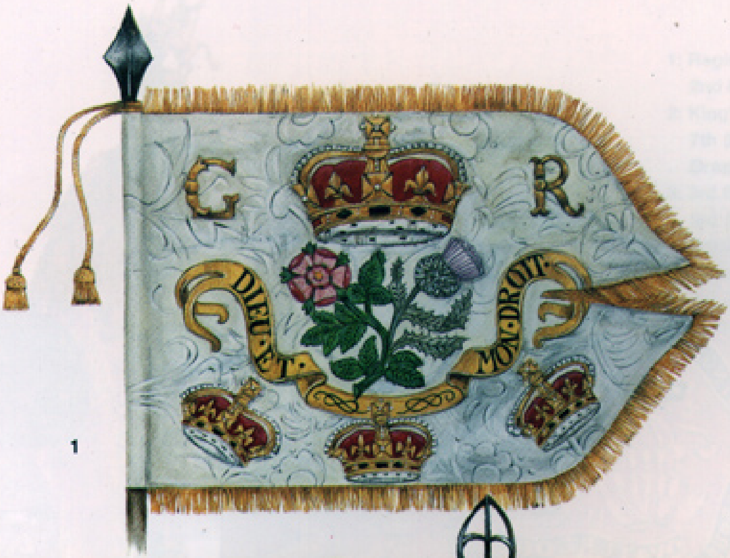
By no means every English regiment bore the regulation Union wreath. Yeomanry units made use of a variety of different patterns. Their flags bear wreaths of English oak (Loyal Lincoln Rangers, see Plate J2), oak and holly (Denbighshire Yeomanry, 1799), olive and oak (Royal Bicton Troop, 1800), oak and roses growing on the same stem (Holkham Yeomanry, 1797) or even ears of wheat (Uxbridge Yeomanry, 1830). Some units moved even further away from the regulations. The Grimston Yeomanry Cavalry, raised in the East Riding of Yorkshire in



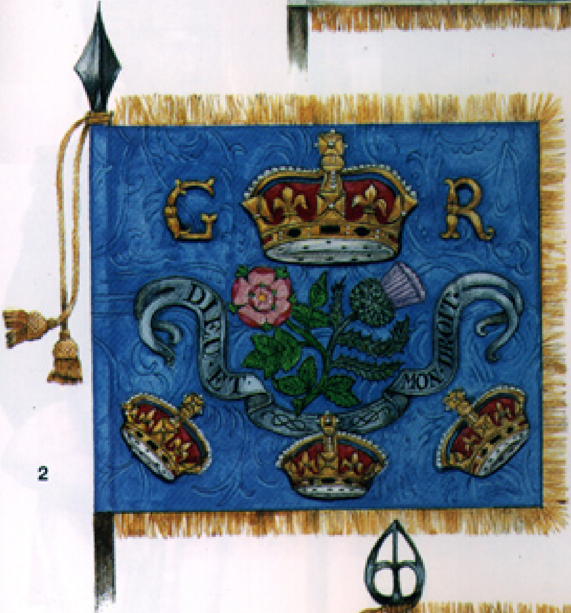
The reverse of the same flag. Centre: a trooper wearing a red jacket faced white, with white trousers and black half boots, and a black helmet with a white falling crest; his shabraque is white with decorations in a darker colour; his horse is dark grey and is shown standing on grass, bright green across the top with a darker lower layer scattered with white flowers. The Corps was raised by Col. John Bateman, Knight of Glin, of Glin Castle, Co. Limerick.



1: 2nd Troop Guidon, Horse Guards, 1747
2: 1st Troop Standard, Horse Grenadier Guards, c.1780
3: Union Standard, Royal Horse Guards (The Blues), 1760
4: Union Standard, Household Cavalry, 1820s


G
R
DIEU·ET·MON·DROIT

1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R
DIEU·ET·MON·DROIT

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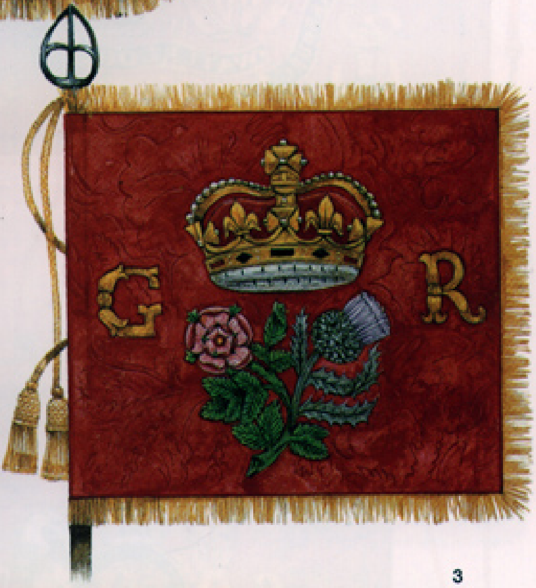

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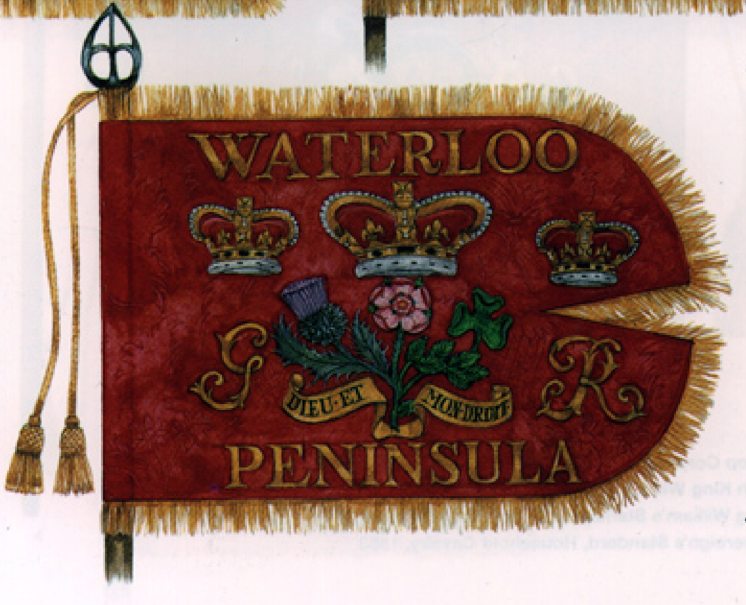
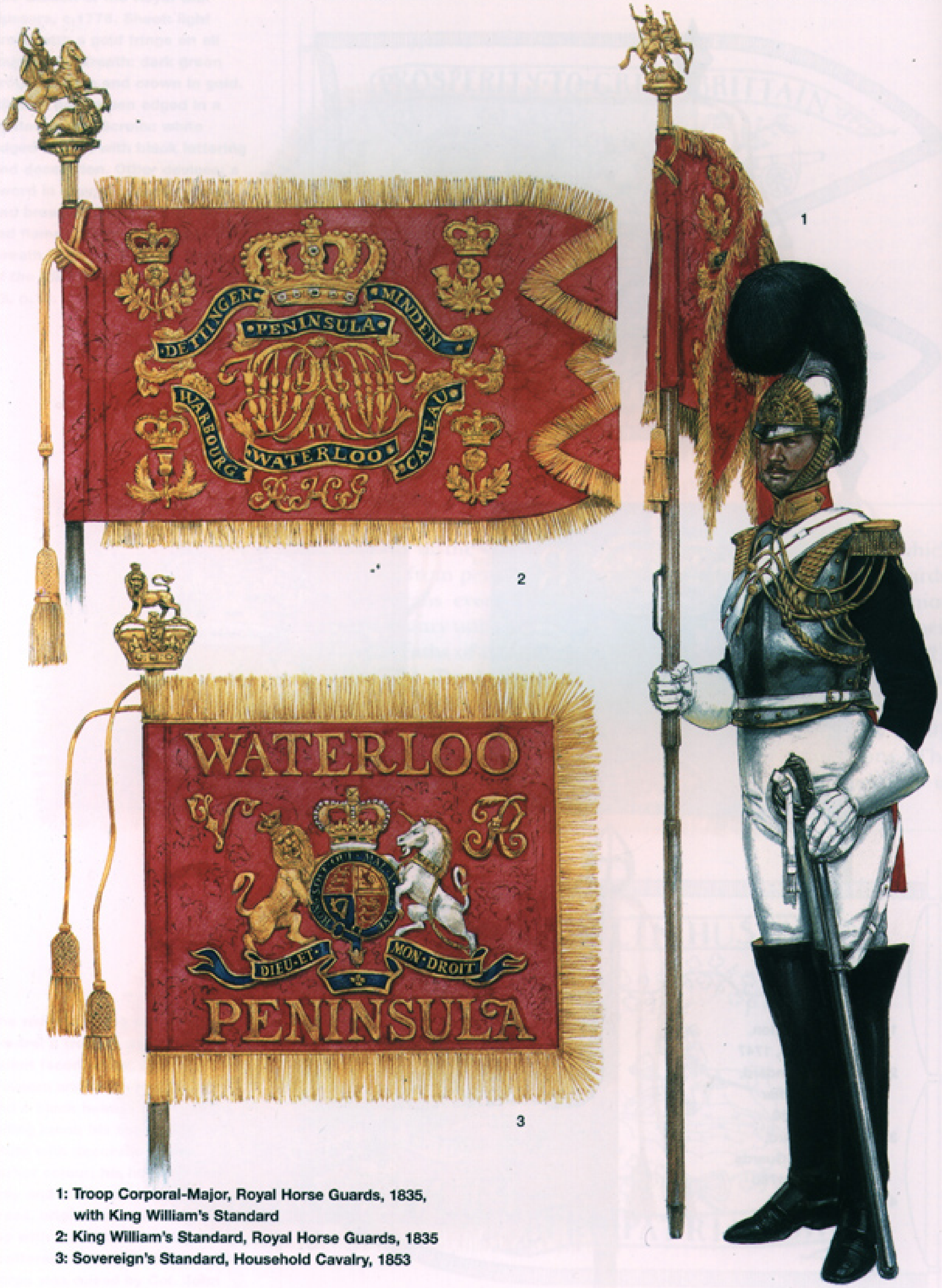

WATERLOO
G
R
DIEU·ET MON·DROIT
PENINSULA

4

1: 2nd Troop Guidon, Horse Guards, 1747
2: 1st Troop Standard, Horse Grenadier Guards, c.1780
3: Union Standard, Royal Horse Guards (The Blues), 1760
4: Union Standard, Household Cavalry, 1820s

A


DETTINGEN
PENINSULA
MINDEN
WARBOURG
IV
WATERLOO
CATEAU
WATERLOO
PENINSULA
DIEU ET
MON DROIT
1
2
3

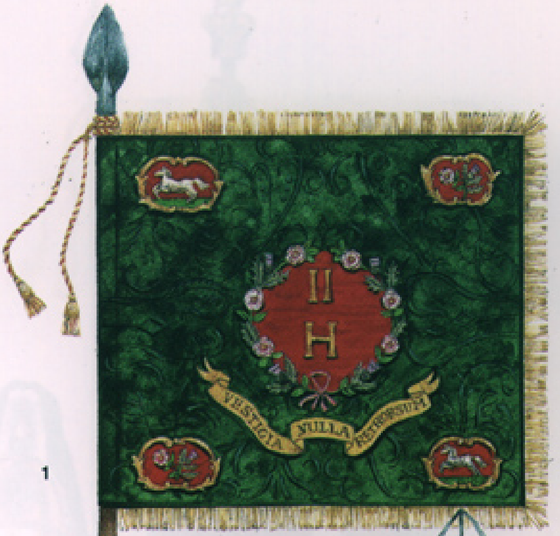
1: Troop Corporal-Major, Royal Horse Guards, 1835, with King William's Standard

2: King William's Standard, Royal Horse Guards, 1835

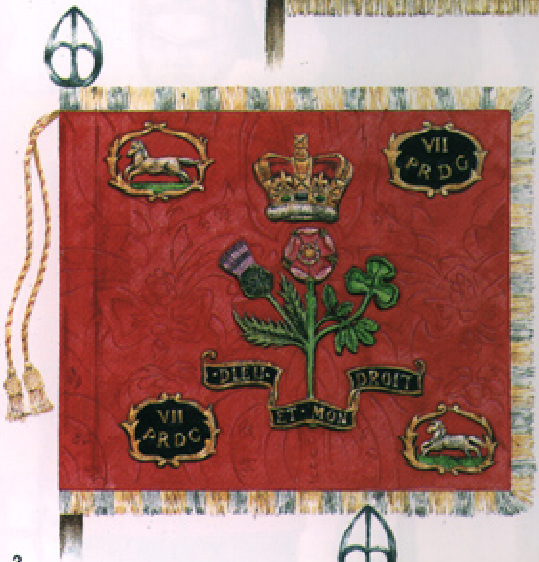
3: Sovereign's Standard, Household Cavalry, 1853

B

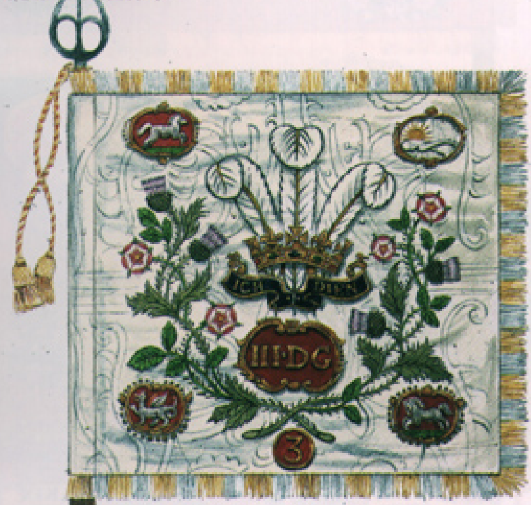
1: Regimental Standard, 2nd Horse, 1750
2: King's Standard, 7th (Princess Royal's) Dragoon Guards, c.1790
3: 3rd Squadron Standard, 3rd (Prince of Wales's) Dragoon Guards, c.1780
4: Second Guidon, 4th (Royal Irish) Dragoon Guards, c.1838


II H
VESTIGIA NULLA RETRORSUM

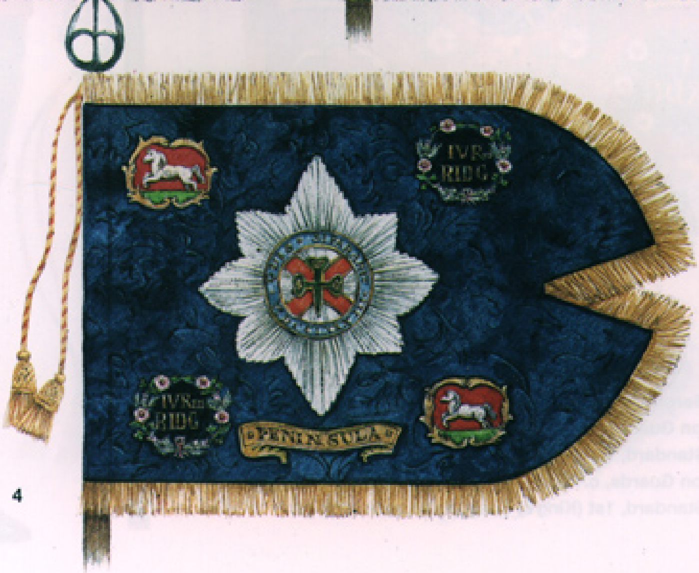
1


VII PRDG
DIEU ET MON DROIT
VII PRDG

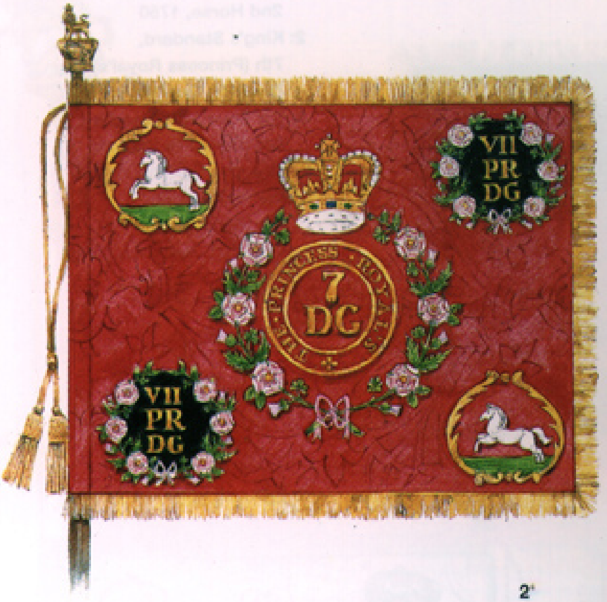
2


ICH DIEN
III·DG
3

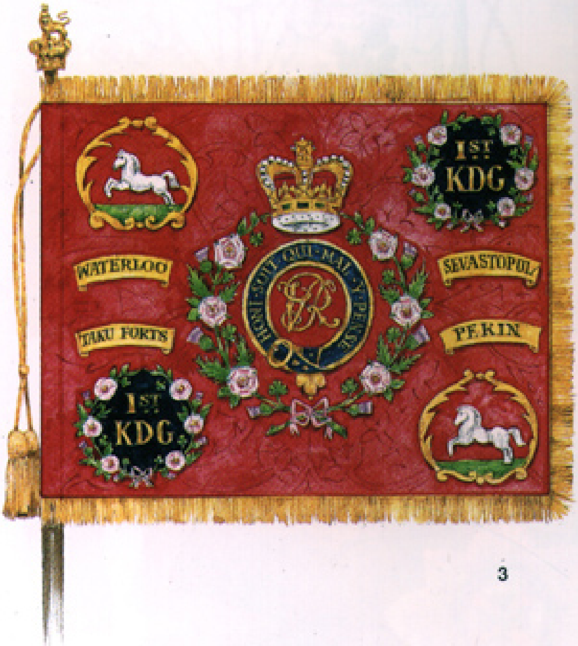
3


IVR RIDG
IVR RIDG
PENINSULA

4

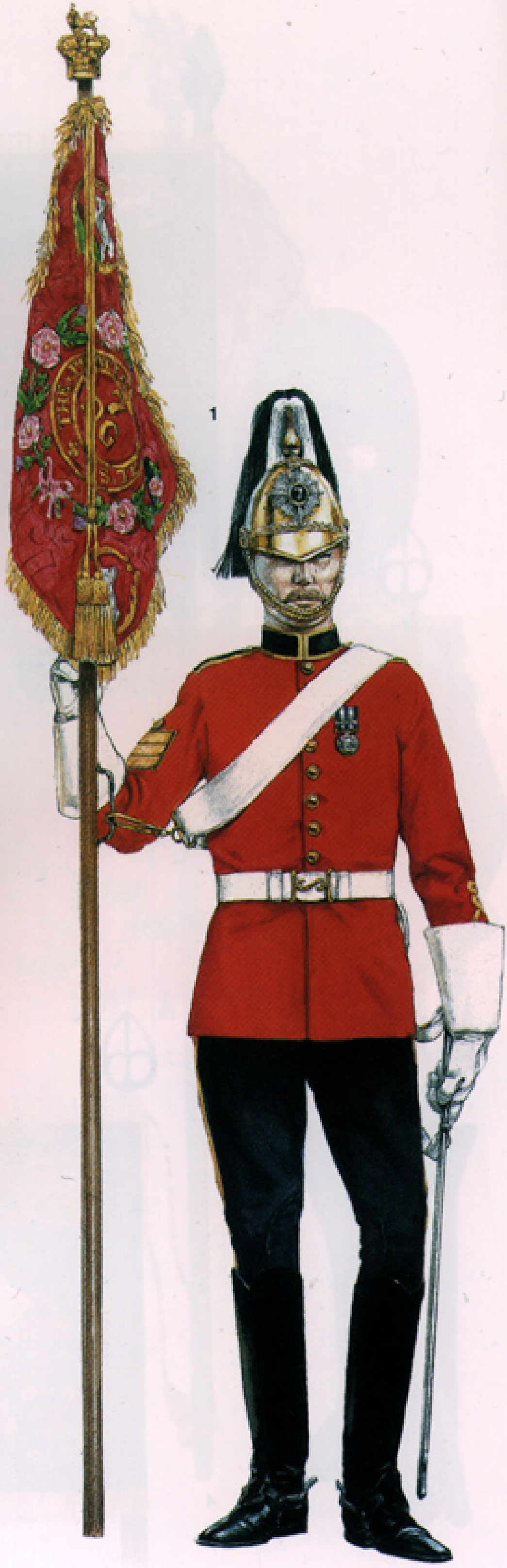

VII
PR
DG
THE PRINCESS ROYAL'S
7
DG
VII
PR
DG

2


1ST
KDG
WATERLOO
SEVASTOPOL
TAKU FORTS
PEKIN
HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE
VR
1ST
KDG

3

1

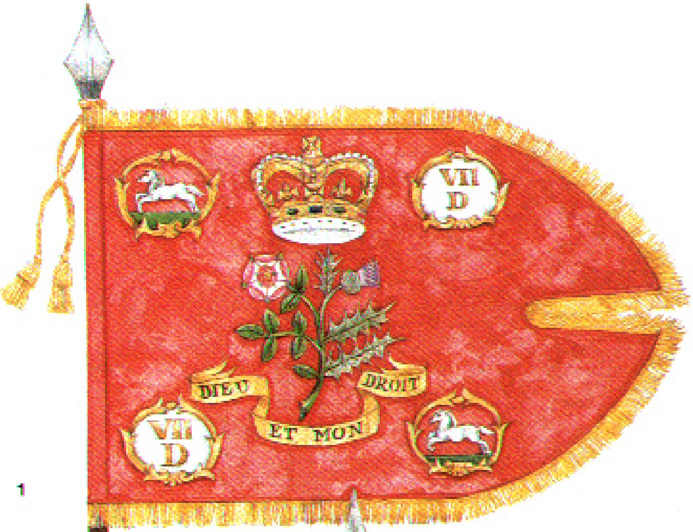


1: Troop Sergeant-Major, 7th (The Princess Royal's) Dragoon Guards, c.1880, with the Royal Standard

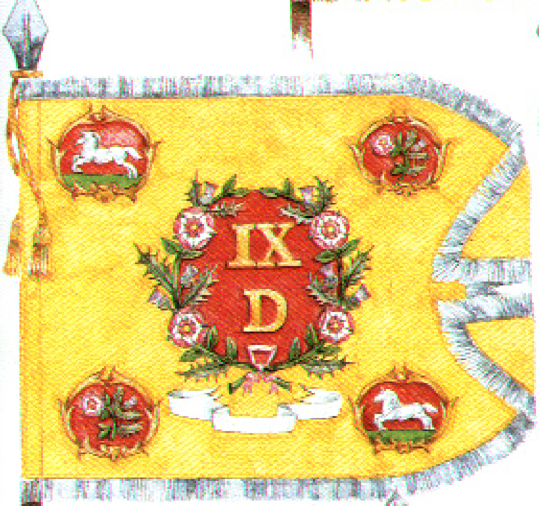
2: Royal Standard, 7th (The Princess Royal's) Dragoon Guards, c.1880

3: Royal Standard, 1st (King's) Dragoon Guards, c.1870

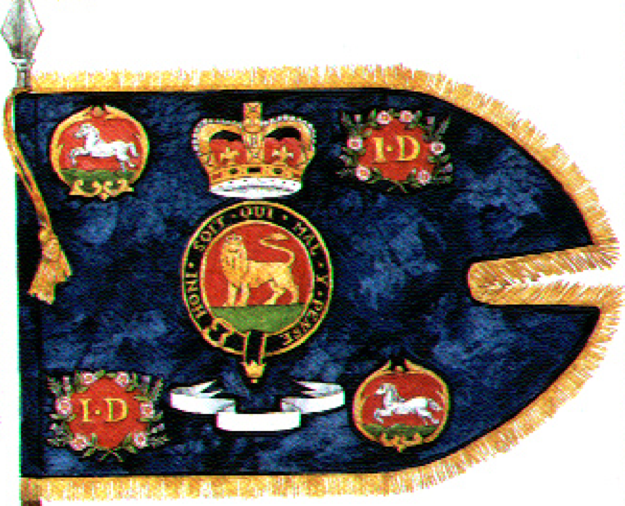
D


VII D
DIEU ET MON DROIT
VII D

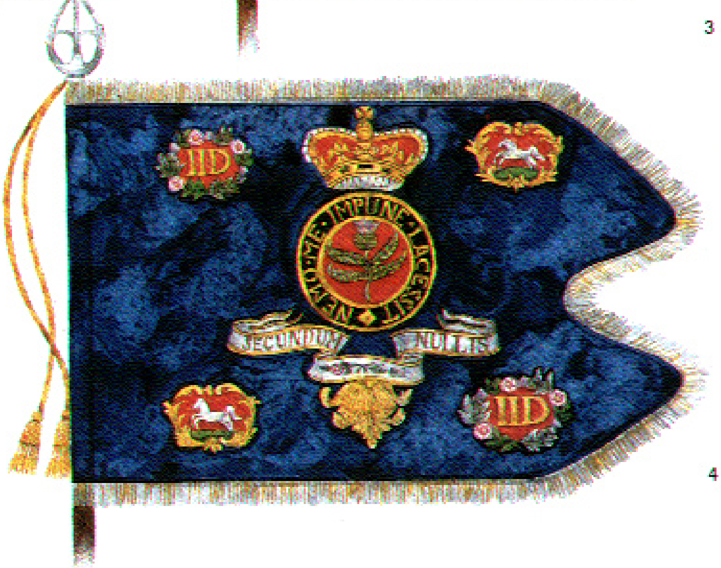
1



2


I·D
HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE
I·D

3


IID
NEMO ME IMPUNE LACESSIT
SECUNDUM NULLIS
IID

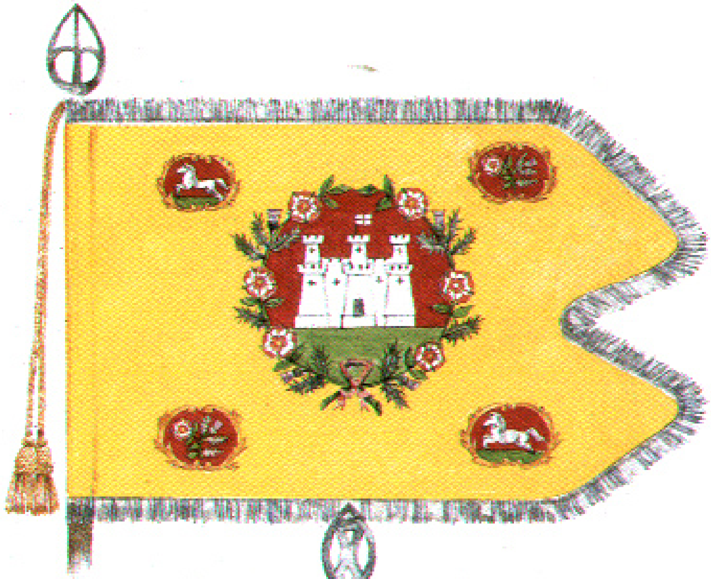
4

1: King's Guidon, 7th (Queen's Own) Dragoons, c.1750

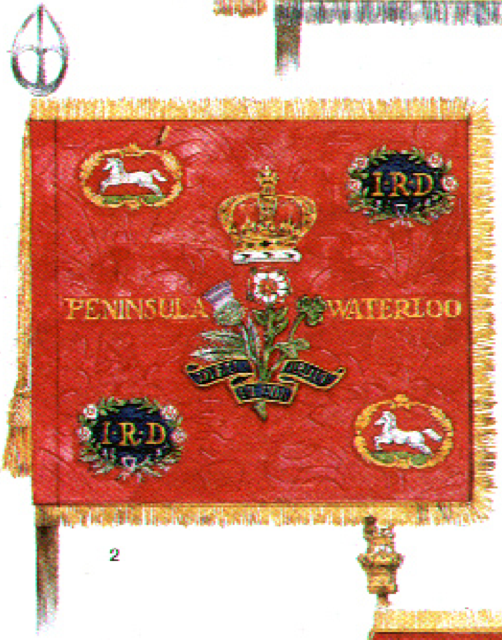
2: Second Guidon, 9th Dragoons, c.1750

3: King's Guidon, 1st Royal Dragoons, 1750

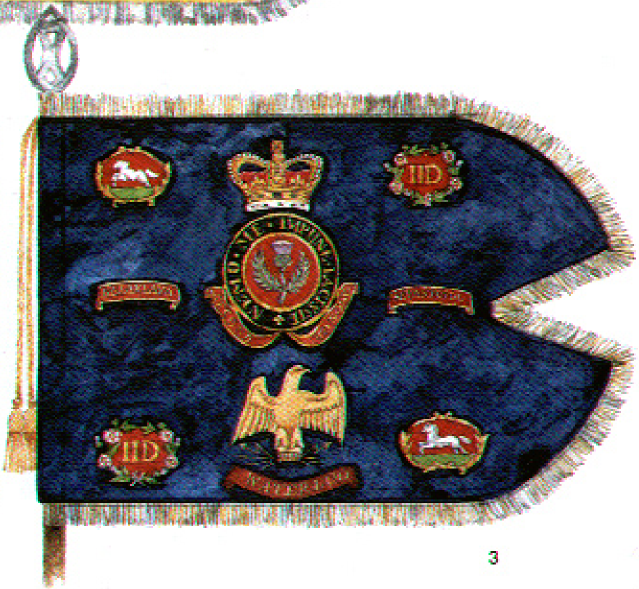
4: Second Guidon, 2nd Royal North British Dragoons, c.1785



1


I·R·D
PENINSULA
WATERLOO
I·R·D

2



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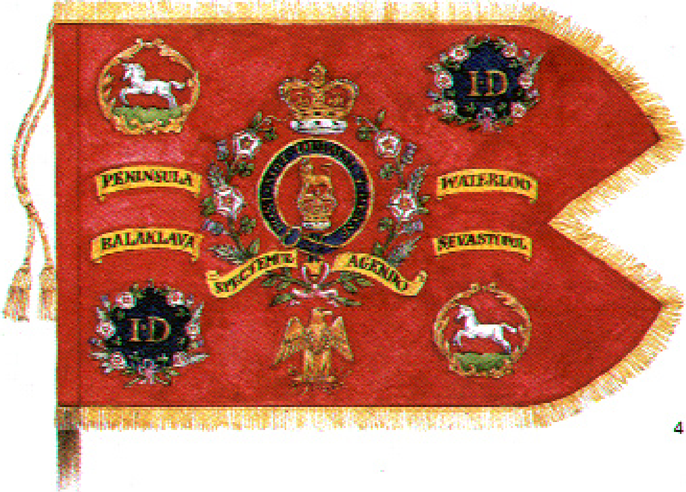
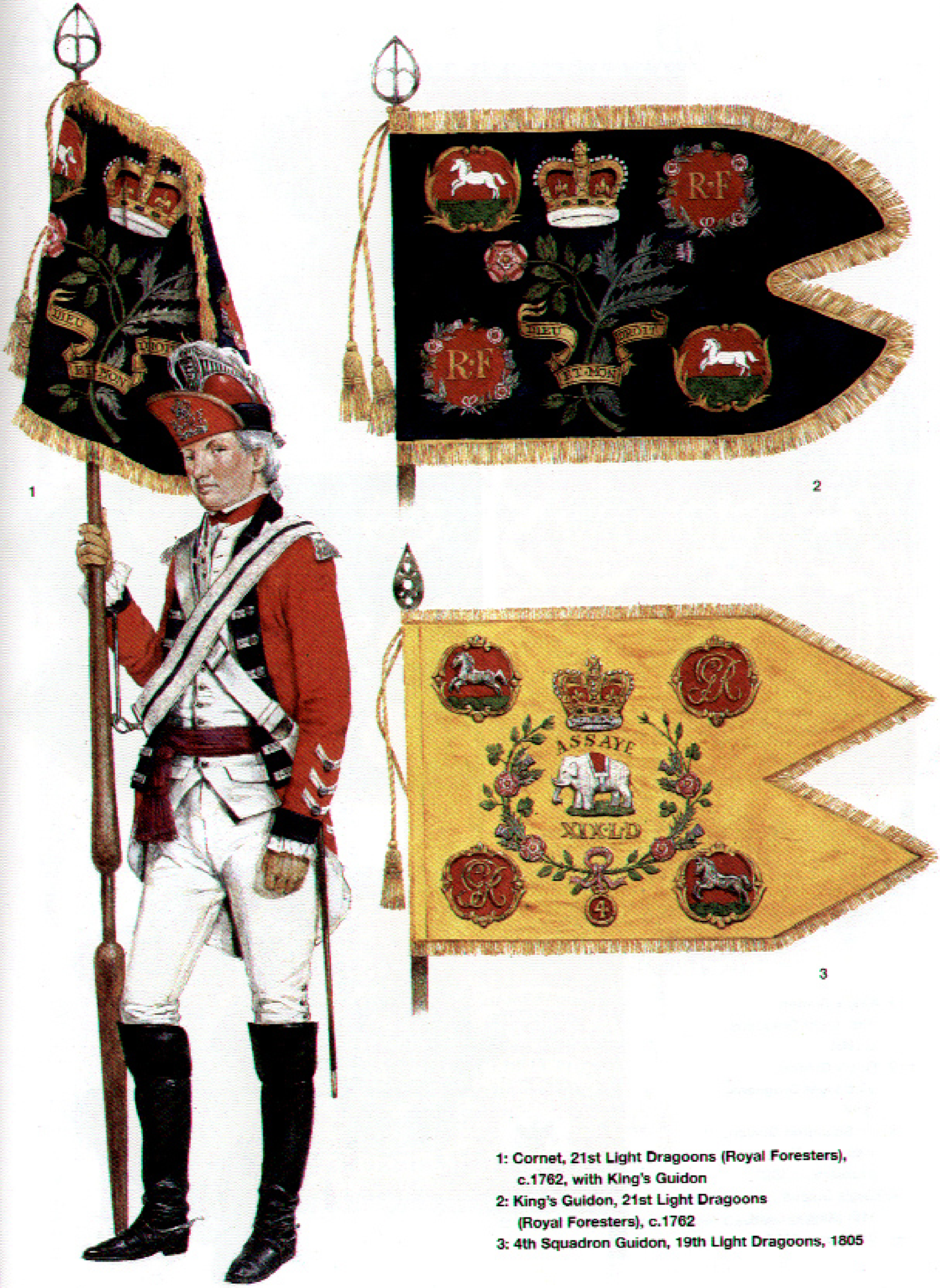

I·D
PENINSULA
WATERLOO
BALAKLAVA
SEVASTOPOL
SPECTEMUR
AGENDO
I·D

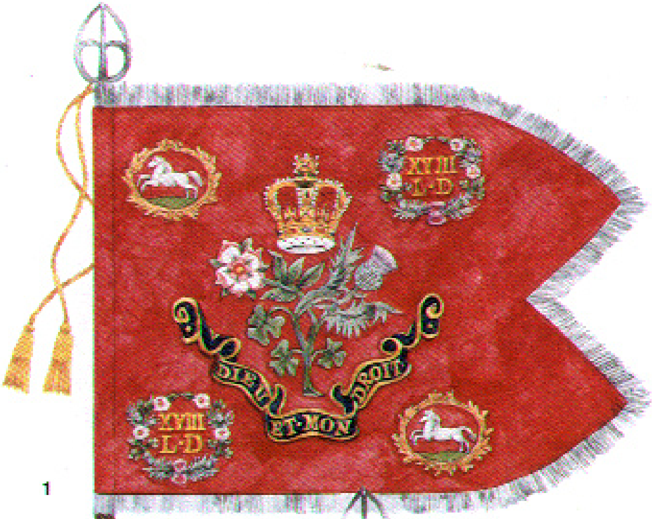
4

1: Second Guidon,
6th, Inniskilling,
Dragoons, c.1800
2: King's Standard,
1st Royal Dragoons,
1820
3: Second Guidon,
Royal North British
Dragoons, c.1848
4: Royal Guidon,
1st Royal Dragoons,
1868

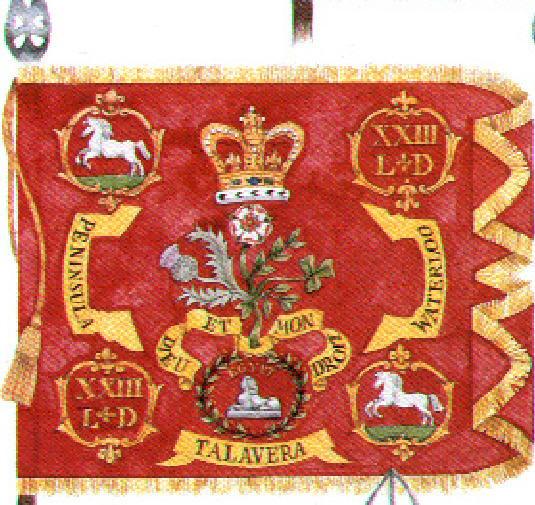
F


1
DIEU ET MON DROIT
2
R·F
DIEU ET MON DROIT
R·F
3
ASSAYE
XIX·L·D
4

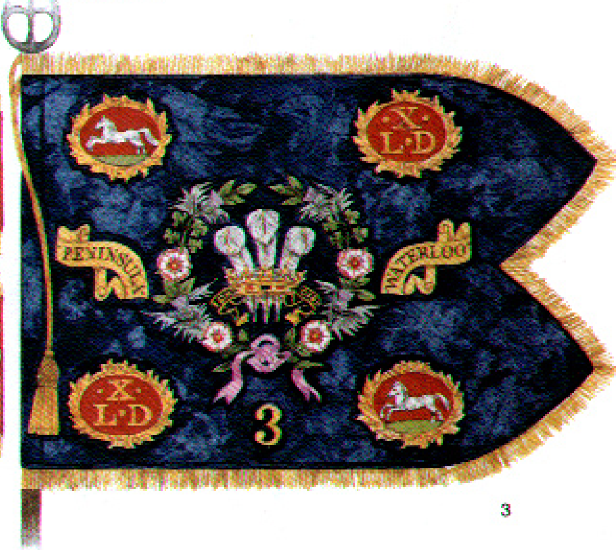
1: Cornet, 21st Light Dragoons (Royal Foresters), c.1762, with King's Guidon
2: King's Guidon, 21st Light Dragoons (Royal Foresters), c.1762
3: 4th Squadron Guidon, 19th Light Dragoons, 1805


XVIII
L·D
DIEU ET MON DROIT
XVIII
L·D

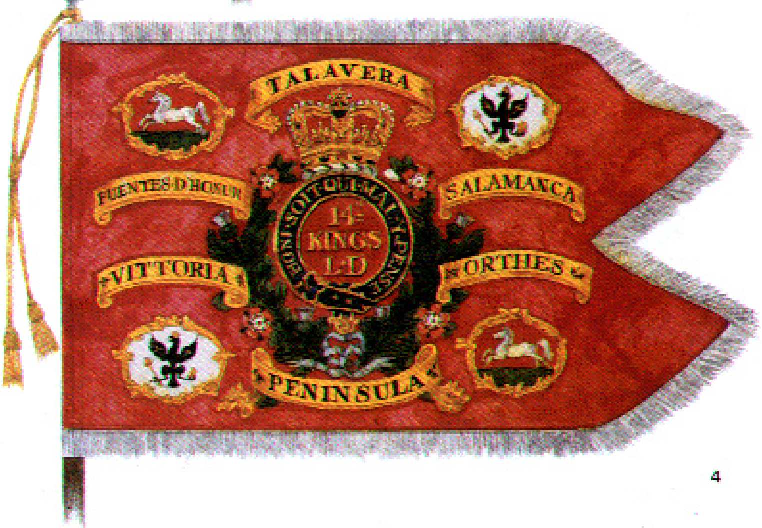
1


XXIII
L·D
PENINSULA
WATERLOO
DIEU ET MON DROIT
XXIII
L·D
TALAVERA

2


X
L·D
PENINSULA
WATERLOO
X
L·D
3

3


TALAVERA
FUENTES D'HONOR
SALAMANCA
14
KINGS
L.D
VITTORIA
ORTHES
PENINSULA

4

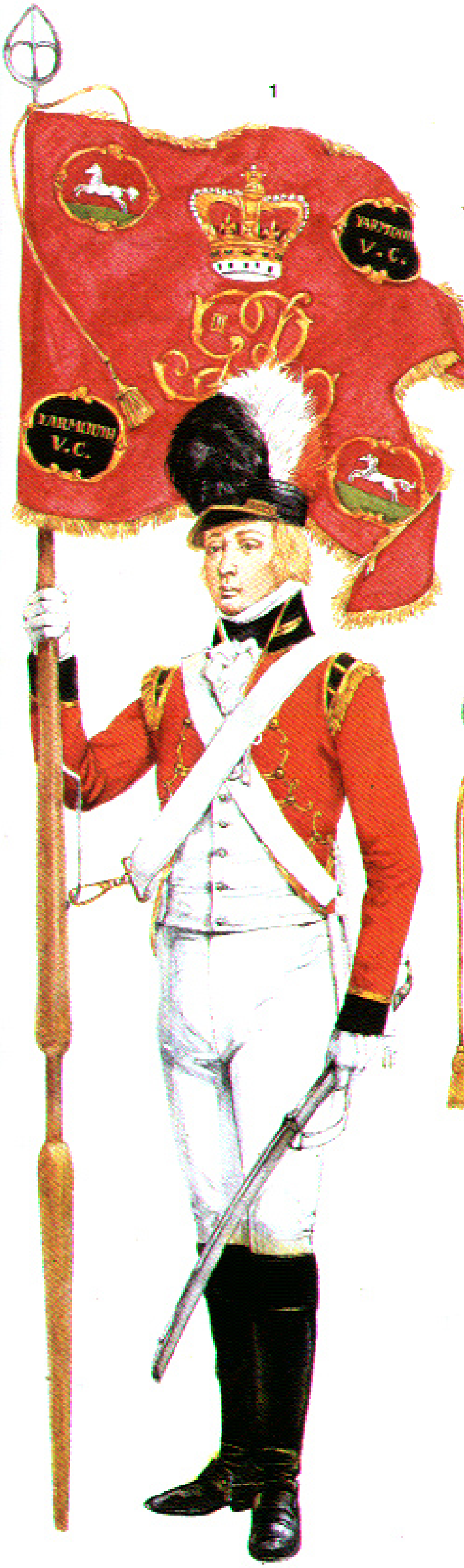
1: King's Guidon,
18th Light Dragoons,
c.1805

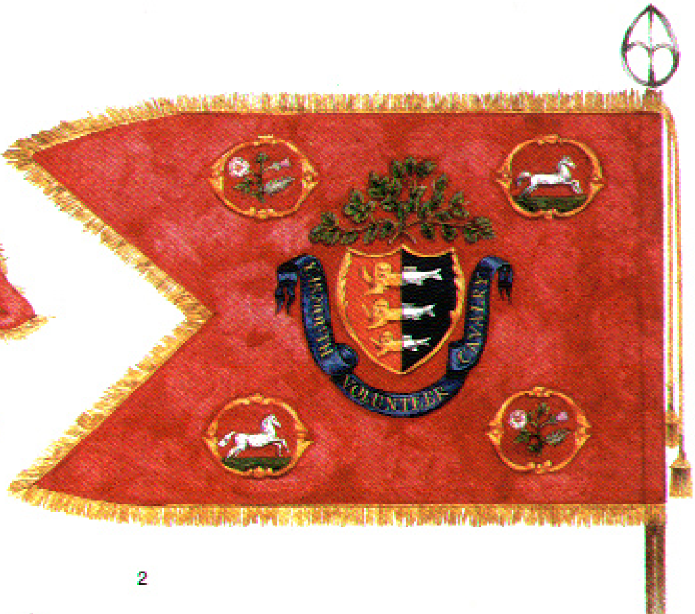
2: King's Guidon,
23rd Light Dragoons,
1816

3: 3rd Squadron Guidon,
10th Light Dragoons
(Hussars), c.1820

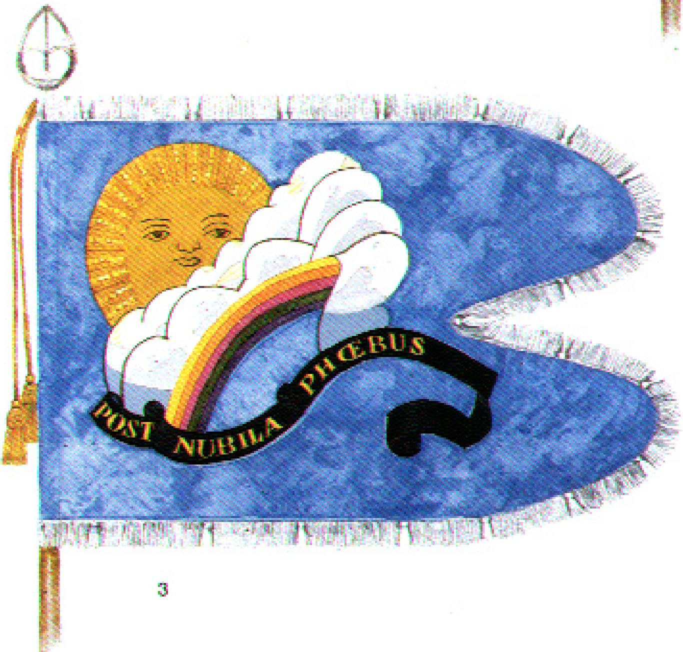
4: King's Guidon,
14th (King's) Light
Dragoons, 1835

1


YARMOUTH
V.C.
GR
YARMOUTH
V.C.


YARMOUTH VOLUNTEER CAVALRY

2


POST NUBILA PHŒBUS

3

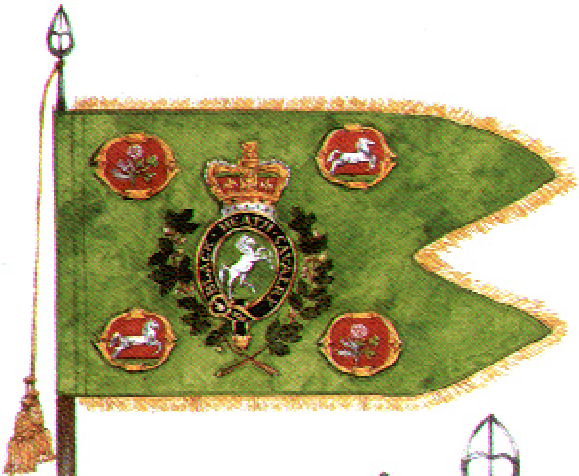
1: Cornet, Yarmouth Volunteer Cavalry, 1798, with guidon
2: Guidon, Yarmouth Volunteer Cavalry, 1798
3: Guidon, County Sligo Light Horse, c.1786

1: Guidon, Black Heath Cavalry, 1798

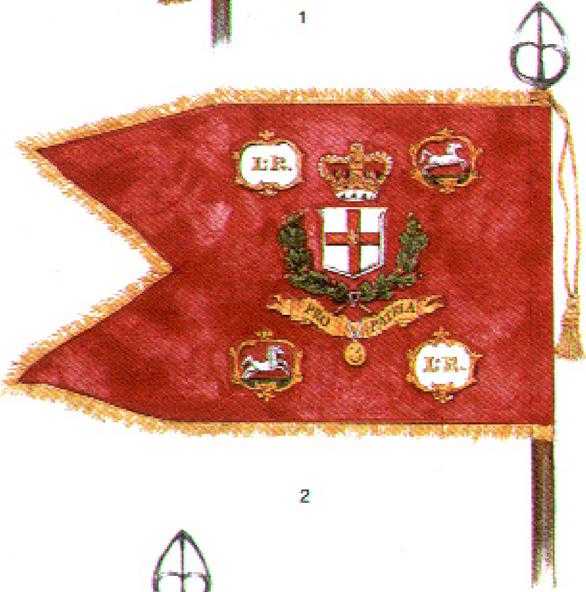
2: 3rd Troop Guidon, Loyal Lincoln Rangers, 1798

3: Standard, Northumberland and Newcastle Volunteer Cavalry, 1822

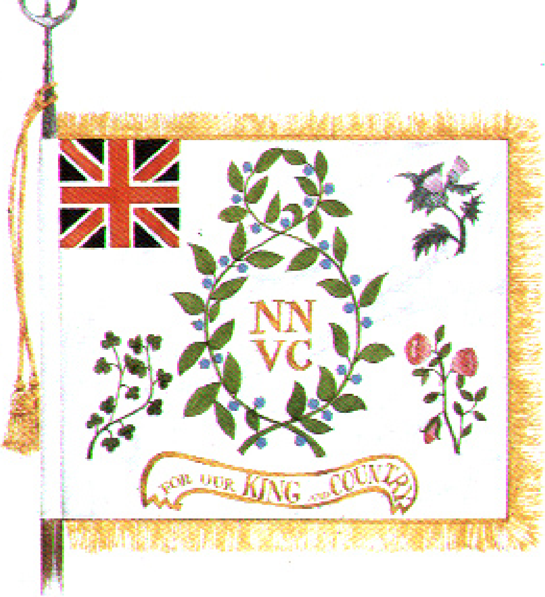
4: Guidon, Welford and Newbury Yeomanry Cavalry, 1831


BLACK HEATH CAVALRY

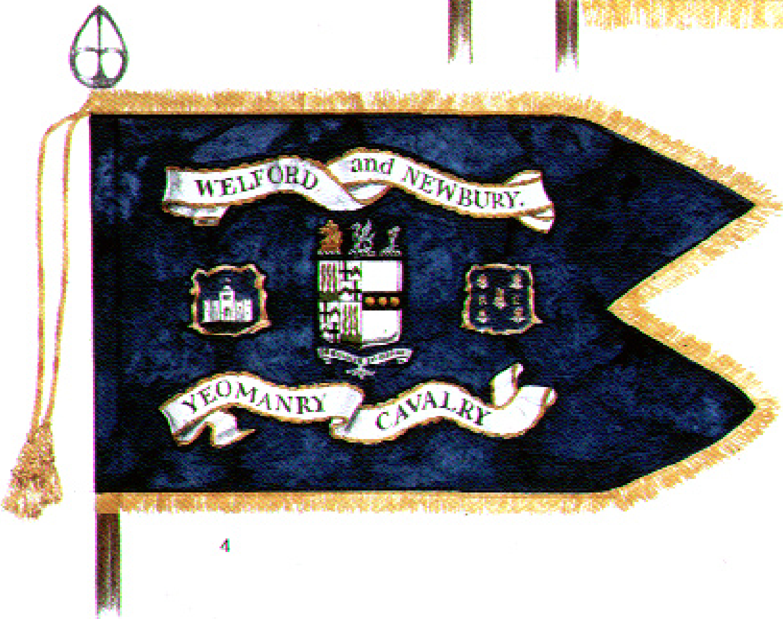
1


L.R.
PRO PATRIA
L.R.

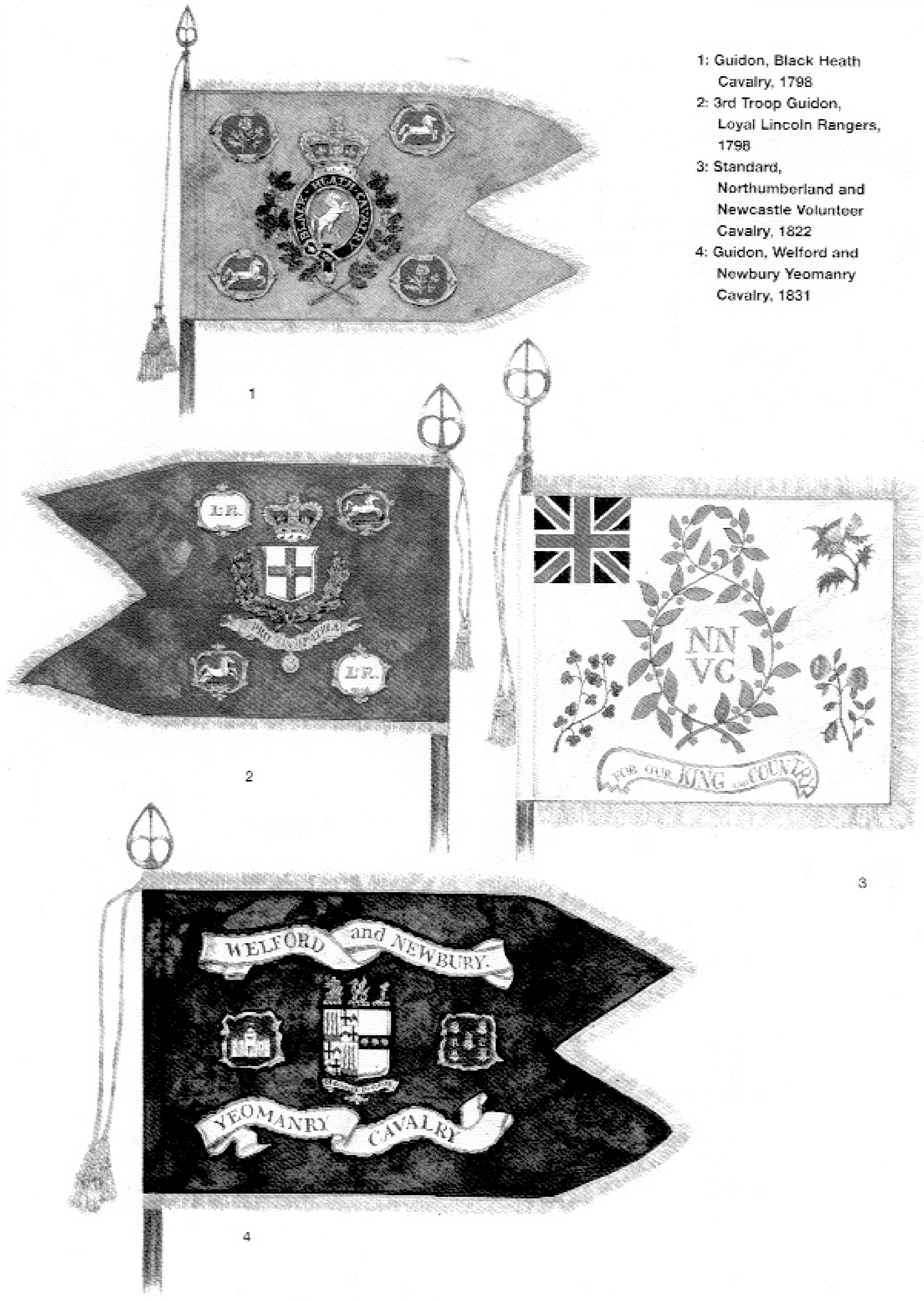
2


NN
VC
FOR OUR KING AND COUNTRY

3


WELFORD and NEWBURY.
YEOMANRY CAVALRY

4



1: Guidon, Black Heath Cavalry, 1798
2: 3rd Troop Guidon, Loyal Lincoln Rangers, 1798
3: Standard, Northumberland and Newcastle Volunteer Cavalry, 1822
4: Guidon, Welford and Newbury Yeomanry Cavalry, 1831

J

1803, adopted a most old-fashioned pattern of guidon; it included the Union Flag in the upper hoist canton, a usage not seen in the regular army since 1747.

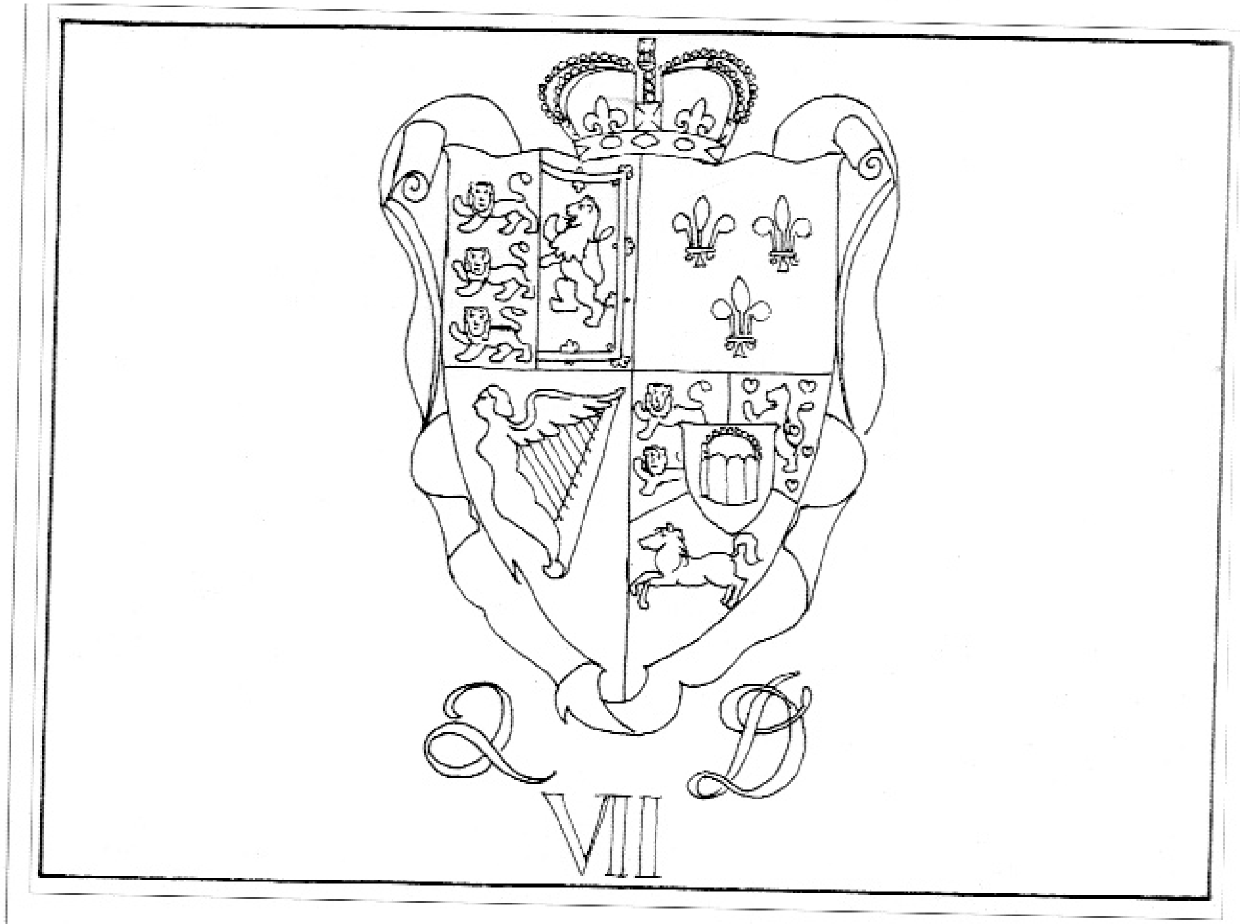
The attitude taken by yeomanry regiments towards their standards and guidons is yet another indication of their individuality. In marked contrast to the indifference shown by their counterparts in the regular army, yeomanry units were frequently presented with their standards at a formal parade, in front of a public audience, and with speeches from local dignitaries (see the notes to Plate I2 and J3). These events could sometimes attract enormous crowds. In June 1798, for example, some 20,000 people gathered to see Lady Bruce, the wife of the lord lieutenant of the county, present standards to the Wiltshire Yeomanry on Beckhampton Down.

When the first units of yeomanry were raised in 1794, most consisted of a single, independent troop. However, other larger units were also formed, of regimental strength. For example, the 1st or Southern Regiment of West Riding Yeomanry was five troops strong in 1794, as was the Derbyshire Volunteer Cavalry in the following year. However, the size of a unit did not necessarily determine the number of flags it received. Most regiments of single troop strength received just one standard or guidon, although there were exceptions – the Gilston Troop (Hertfordshire) was presented with two standards in 1831. The 1st West Riding Yeomanry and the Derbyshire Volunteer Cavalry, identical in size, were treated very differently. The latter were presented with just a single, 'Royal' standard at Derby in 1795. By contrast, in the previous year the 1st West Riding had received three 'standards': a 'Royal Standard' that bore the arms of King George III; a 'Provincial Standard' that carried the arms of the City of York, and a third that displayed the motto *Law, liberty and religion.*

The term 'provincial standard', used to denote the second standard, was also adopted by a number of other units around this time. These included the Loyal Leicestershire Volunteer Cavalry of 1794, and the Worcestershire Yeomanry, which used the phrase for its Second Guidon, presented in 1797, and carried by the Second Troop.

In another example of local independence, the order of 1834 prohibiting the carrying of guidons by regiments of light dragoons received a mixed response from the yeomanry, even though most regiments were uniformed as light dragoons. Some retired their flags, whether these were standards or guidons. Others, such as the Staffordshire Yeomanry, continued to carry them throughout the period. Even though they were dressed as light dragoons, the Staffordshires were presented in October 1835 with five squadron standards 'of the most elaborate and costly description' (see the line illustration). The Duke of Lancaster's Own Yeomanry, on the other hand, which had been formed by the amalgamation of three independent troops in 1828, and which was dressed as 'heavy' dragoons, does not appear to have received a guidon until 1908.

Further horsed volunteer regiments – the Light Horse Volunteers and the Mounted Rifle Volunteers – were raised in the early 1860s. However, none appear to have carried flags. The Volunteer Regulations specifically prohibited this; these regiments were deemed to be equivalent to the rifle regiments of the regular army, and thus they were not entitled to carry standards or guidons.



A camp colour of the 7th Queen's Own Dragoons, taken from a portrait of Cornet Samuel Russell, c.1770. The colour is non-regulation in almost every respect. It is white, the colour of the regimental facings, but it is rectangular instead of swallow-tailed. The device should be '7D' in silver; instead it is the Royal coat of arms in red-brown, perhaps intended for gold. Source: *The Queen's Own Hussars, 1689–1985* (Warwick, 1985)

OTHER FLAGS

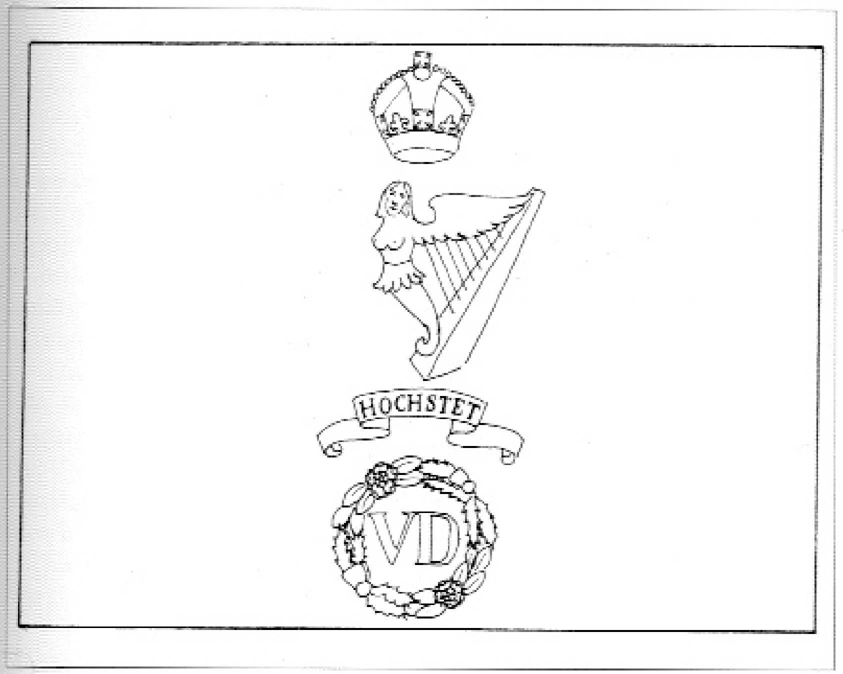
Camp colours

Camp colours were used to mark off the boundaries of the regiment's camp. They were described in the 1768 Warrant as being of the colour of the regimental facings, with the rank or badge of the regiment displayed in the centre. The camp colours of regiments of horse were 18ins square; those of dragoon guards, dragoons and light dragoons were swallow-tailed, and 18ins on the pole. The pole itself was to be 7ft 6ins long.

The task of setting out the camp colours was an extra duty allocated to a number of men in each regiment. According to Bland's *Treatise of Military Discipline*, published in 1727, each regiment appointed one sergeant, and one man from each company, to assist the quartermaster in marking out the camp and keeping it clean. These men were also responsible for receiving and distributing ammunition, bread and other provisions, working tools, accoutrements and clothes. The sergeant was called the 'quarter-master's sergeant', and his assistants were known as 'camp-colourmen.'

Royal Marines

Between 1730 and 1740 ten regiments of Marines were raised for service at sea. Decimated by service in the West Indies, all of these regiments had been disbanded by 1748, but just fall within the scope of this book. The new units were numbered as regiments of infantry of the line, as the 44th to the 53rd; they were, therefore, presented with stands of ordinary infantry colours. The flags of all ten regiments were similar in pattern. The sheet was in the same colour as the regimental facings, with a Union Flag in the upper hoist canton; in the centre was the regimental number below a badge depicting a man-o-war. The ship flies a White Ensign at its stern, appropriate for a vessel serving directly under Admiralty orders.

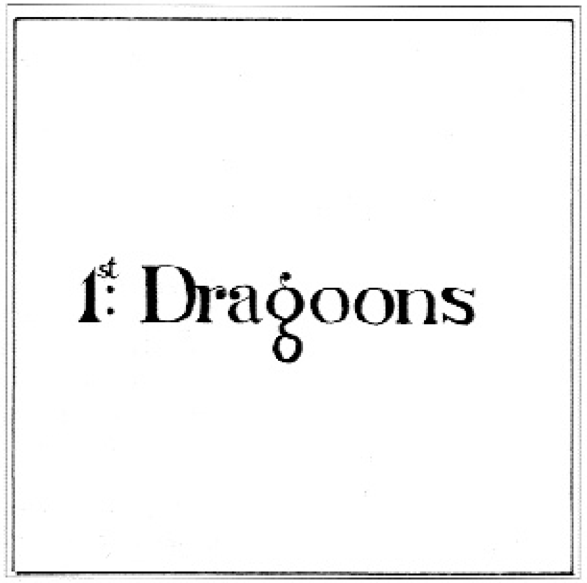


A 'colonel's standard' of the 5th Royal Irish Dragoons, 1799. Sheet: blue. Centre: a gold crown and harp. Scroll: white with gold letters. Regimental numbers: gold. The term 'colonel's standard' comes from the regimental history – the usage is otherwise unknown. This flag may perhaps be some kind of camp colour, used to mark the colonel's tent. Source: Harvey, J.R., *The History of the 5th (Royal Irish) Regiment of Dragoons from 1689 to 1799* (Aldershot, 1923).

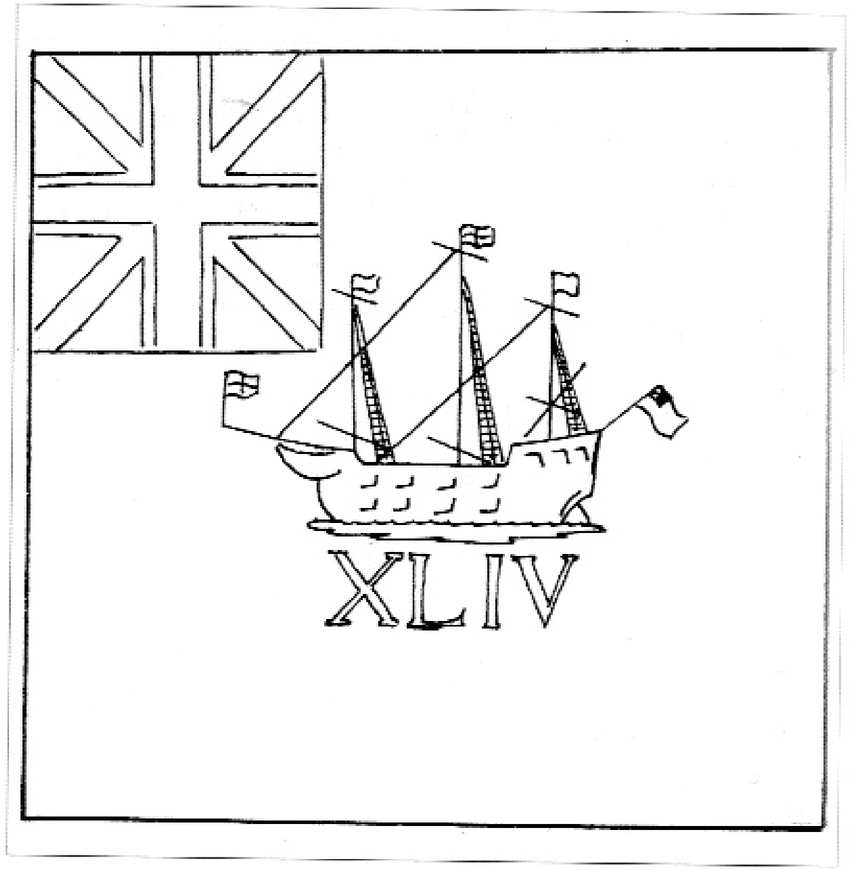
The Marines were next re-raised in 1755. Instead of full regiments, 55 companies were created, organised for administrative purposes into three divisions based at Chatham, Portsmouth and Plymouth. Each division was presented with a stand of colours not long after its creation. The Marines wore white facings until 1802, when they became the Royal Marines and adopted blue facings. A fourth division, based at Woolwich, was created in 1805 and disbanded in 1869.

The Royal Marines were granted a badge on 26 September 1827. On presenting a stand of colours bearing the new badge to the Chatham Division, King George IV described how it had been chosen: '... From the difficulty of selecting any particular place to inscribe on these Standards, Your Sovereign has been pleased to adopt the Great Globe itself as the most proper and distinctive badge. He has also directed that his own name shall be added to that peculiar badge the Anchor which is your distinctive

A camp colour of the Royal Dragoons, 1806. Sheet: blue with gold characters. This more closely, but still not completely, matches the requirements of the regulations. Source: Dawnay, *Standards of the Household Division*.



The Regimental Colour of the 44th Marines, 1747. Sheet: yellow. Centre: a gold ship with white sails, white flags with a red cross at the bowsprit and main, and a white ensign at the stern, all on a green sea. Regimental number: gold. Source: *Tradition* (London), issue 74, p.23.



bearing, in order that it may be known hereafter that George IV had conferred on you the honourable and well-earned badge this day presented to you. The motto, peculiarly your own, *Per mare per terram*, has been allowed to remain and surmounting the entire is the word "Gibraltar" in commemoration of the important national service you performed there.'

Marine detachments also appear to have made up their own flags. For example, a flag carried by a detachment of Royal Marines during the attack on Buenos Aires in 1806 consisted of a naval Red Ensign, with the letters 'R.M.B.' (perhaps standing for 'Royal Marine Battalion') stitched upon it in white. The flag was one of the trophies captured by the local forces and is still displayed in the city's cathedral.

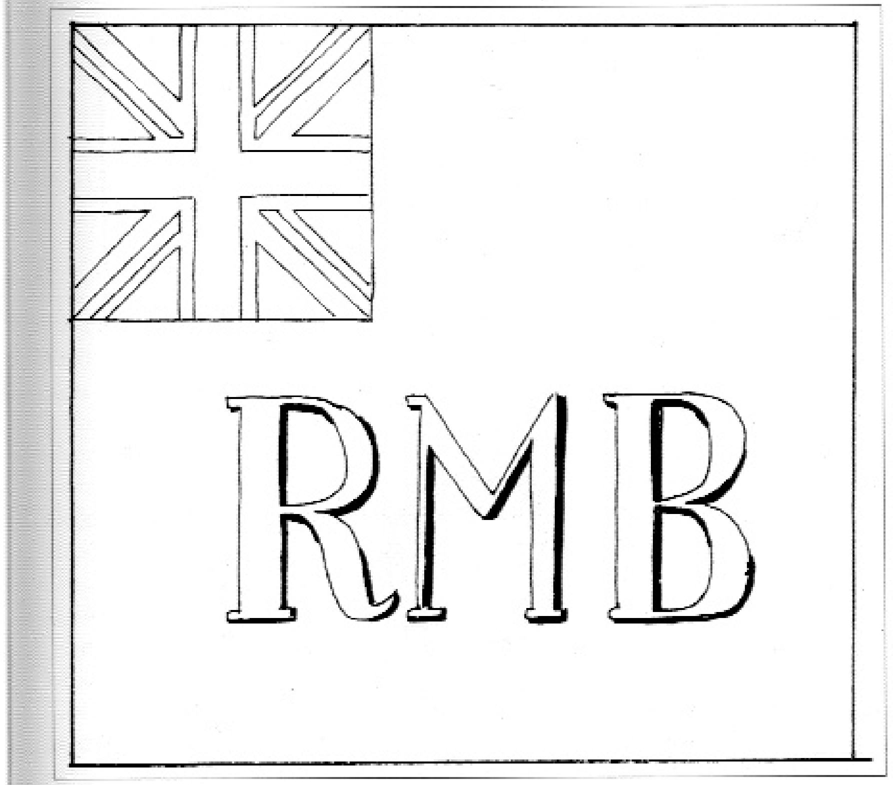
Royal Artillery

The Royal Artillery did not carry standards or colours; their guns were considered to be the equivalent of the flags carried by other regiments. However, a feature of 18th century armies was the 'flag gun'. This was a small gun, a four-pounder, with a flag pole attached to the trail, and a Union Flag flying from the pole. The gun and its flag marked the position of the tent of the commander-in-chief, and could also be used to draw attention to events within the camp. According to *Smith's Universal Military Dictionary*, published in 1772, the gun took fifth place in the line of march, behind the artillery's kettledrums.

The flag gun was certainly in use in the Low Countries in 1747, during the War of the Austrian Succession. After that date, except in India, it seems to have appeared only rarely, although a flag howitzer drawn by two horses certainly formed part of the funeral procession for the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland in 1787. In India, however, it continued to be used by royal or Honourable East India Company forces well into the 19th century. The flag was carried on the leading gun of the train on a pole 14ft high. The sheet itself was 8ft long and 5½ft on the staff. Another flag, even larger, 18ft long by 12ft on the staff, was hoisted in the artillery park and was carried on the march (surely rolled up?) by the gun lascars and coolies.

The flag gun was certainly in use until 1843 and the Company at least may well have continued to use it up to the time of the Indian Mutiny. During the Mutiny, in the action which was to win him the Victoria Cross, the flag captured from the rebels by Lt. Frederick Roberts (later Field Marshal Lord Roberts of Kandahar) featured the crest of the Honourable East India Company and appears to have come from a flag gun.

Just as the yeomanry so often flouted the regulations governing cavalry flags, so a unit of artillery volunteers, the Bedfordshire Horse Artillery, may provide an exception here. Two guidons, represented as those carried in 1803, were presented to their successor unit, 305th Medium Regiment (Bedfordshire Yeomanry) RA, TA in 1948. One bears the arms of the Borough of Bedford, with corner cartouches in a contemporary style; the other, more modern-looking, has in the centre the arms of the Board of Ordnance. Little is known about the Bedfordshire Horse Artillery. It does not appear in Wilson's Chart of 1807, although a muster



The flag carried by a Royal Marines detachment at Buenos Aires, 1806. Sheet: red. Lettering: white, shaded black. In 1882, the sheet was approximately 78ins by 81ins. Source: *Trofeos de la reconquista de la cuidad de Buenos Aires en el año 1806* (Buenos Aires, 1882).

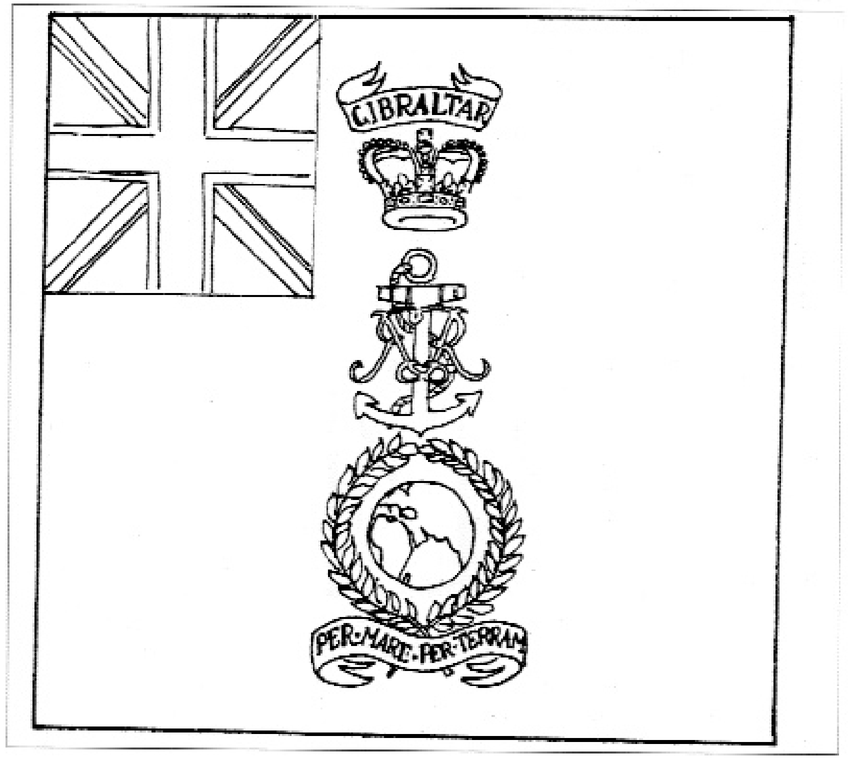
list of 1803 has survived. It is possible that it was intended to form part of a legion-like formation, and thus had only a limited existence as a separate unit.

Headquarter and depot flags

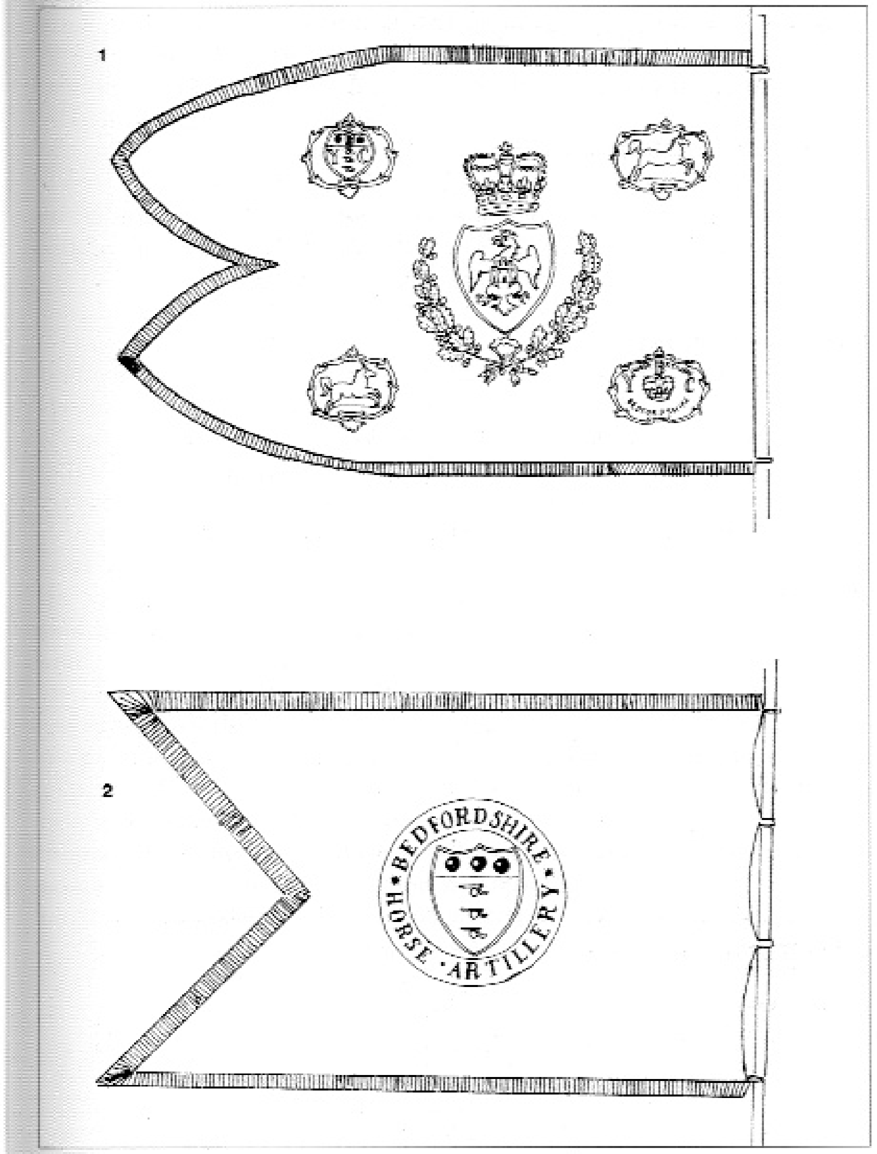
An army in the field frequently made use of flags to designate the location of some of its constituent parts. In Flanders, for example, during the War of the Austrian Succession, the flag gun was accompanied by a red flag to mark the wagon park, and a white flag to mark the site of the pontoons.

By the late 1870s a range of flags had been developed to mark out a headquarters in the field. The HQ of the general commanding was marked by a Union Flag; that of a divisional commander by a square red flag, and that of a brigadier by a red pennant. Certainly from 1866, and possibly from the period of the Crimean War, Ordnance Stores Depots marked their location in the field by flying a blue flag with a red disc in the centre. The Commissariat and Transport Store was indicated by a blue flag with a white centre; the Telegraph Office was marked by a flag of white over blue, and a Post Office by one of white over red. A hospital was distinguished by its red cross flag.

Throughout the Empire, the Union Jack flew at the entrance to permanent garrisons and forts. Queen's Regulations divided these into three separate categories for the purpose of specifying when the flag should be flown. At the smallest sites, this was only on special occasions such as anniversaries, or for special purposes such as saluting. Larger establishments added Sundays and anniversaries to the list. Only the most important forts guarding naval harbours, such as Plymouth, Portsmouth, Devonport, Leith, or Edinburgh Castle, flew the Union Jack daily.



A Divisional Colour of the Royal Marines, 1827. Sheet: dark blue. Scrolls: yellow with black lettering. Anchor and cipher: gold. Wreath: green. Globe: light blue and green. Source: *Records of the Royal Marines*.



The two Guidons of the Bedfordshire Horse Artillery, (1) and (2). (1) Sheet: dark green with a gold fringe. Centre: a yellow shield with a red eagle and a white castle. Arms: upper fly compartment, the arms of the Board of Ordnance with the letters BYC superimposed in gold; in the opposite corner, gold letters on a crimson ground. (2) Sheet: deep red with a gold fringe. Arms: the Ordnance arms within a gold circlet, which bears blue lettering. Source: *JSAHR*, vol.27, p.89.

One of the few departments entitled to its own flag was the Board of Ordnance, which was responsible for the supply of weapons, ammunition and equipment to the Army (and the Navy). The Board had adopted its own coat of arms in the 17th century, and a banner displaying these flew over its headquarters in Pall Mall, London. Yet, from around 1829, permanent Ordnance Depots flew the Union Flag instead. When the Board of Ordnance was abolished in 1855 its functions were taken over by the War Office, which continued to use the Board's own flag.

Schools

The Royal Military College, Sandhurst, was presented with its first stand of colours by Queen Charlotte on 15 August 1813. The 'Regimental' Colour was blue, and the College motto *Vires acquirit eundo* appeared on both colours. This stand was replaced in 1835, and again during the reign of Queen Victoria.

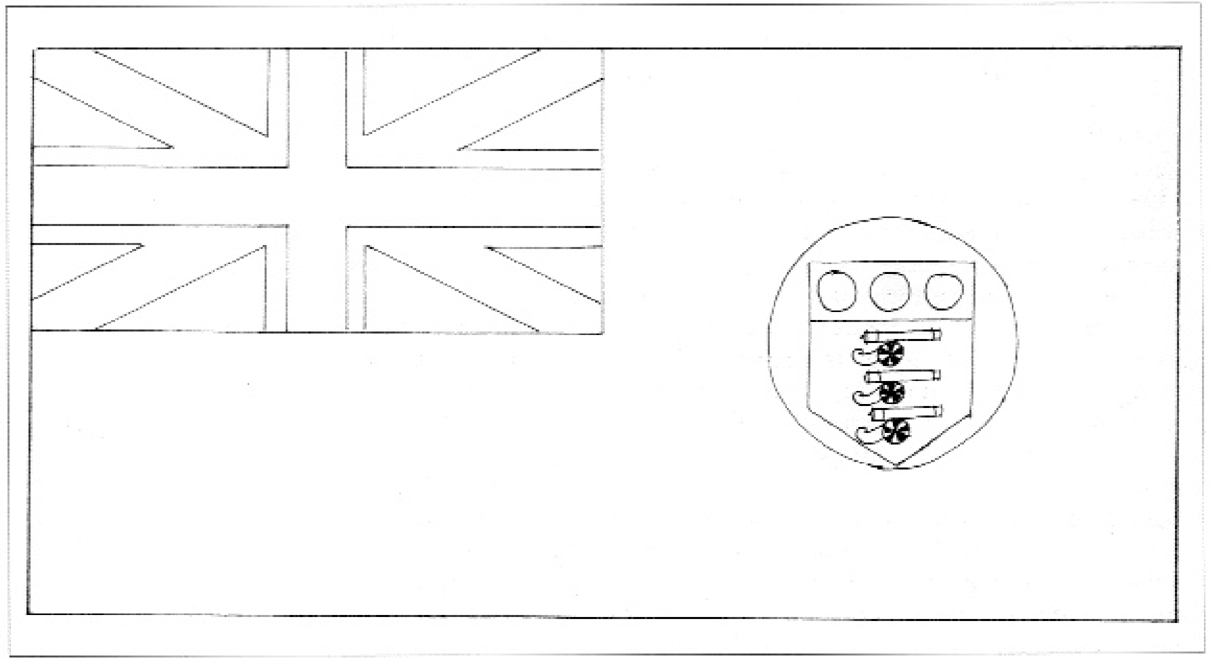
In his series of paintings of British soldiers produced in the early 1830s, A. J. Dubois Drahonet included a portrait of eight-year-old Colour Corporal Joseph Smith of the Royal Military Asylum, Chelsea. The Asylum was an orphanage for the children of soldiers, founded by the Duke of York in 1801. Smith is shown holding a flag which was the equivalent of the Asylum's Regimental Colour. The flag is blue with a Union canton; in the centre is a white rose, which is surrounded by a Union wreath, ensigned by a crown. Across the bottom of the 'colour' are the words 'Royal Military Asylum' in gold.

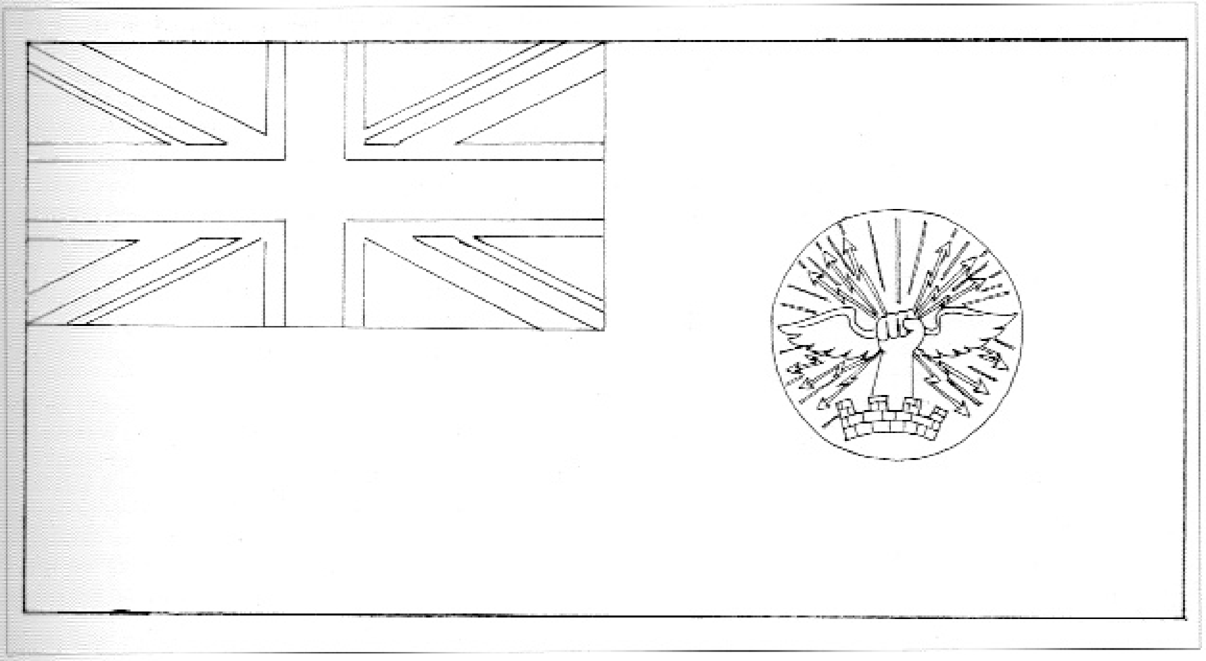
The Army afloat

Vessels in army service were entitled to fly special ensigns, granted to them by the Admiralty. The most important of these vessels were those in the service of the Board of Ordnance, which flew a Red Ensign, with the blue shield of arms of the Board in the fly – a flag first authorised in 1694. Confusion arose during the 19th century when the Red Ensign also became the distinctive flag of British merchant ships, leading to its replacement in July 1864 by a Blue Ensign with the same badge. However, the new flag was not an immediate success. Further changes were required after it was found that the blue shield did not stand out sufficiently from the blue background, and a red edge was inserted around the arms to remedy matters. The Master General of the Ordnance is thought to have flown a banner bearing the arms of the Board when on his barge, or when on board a ship.

Vessels serving units of Royal Engineer submarine miners also flew an ensign, granted around 1871, when the first unit was formed. This was another Blue Ensign; in the fly it bore the crest taken from the full arms of the Board of Ordnance – a fist emerging from a mural crown and clutching a winged thunderbolt, all in yellow.

The pre-1801 ensign of vessels in the employ of the Board of Ordnance. Sheet: red. Arms: blue with gold guns, the upper part white with three black cannon balls. Source: Viner, *Ordnance Flags*.





The Blue Ensign of vessels serving Royal Engineers Submarine Miners. Badge: gold, except for the arm, which is flesh-coloured. Source: Admiralty, *Flags of All the Nations*, 1885.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Samuel Milne's *Standards and Colours of the Army* (Leeds, the author, 1895) remains unsurpassed, although his remarks about a set of regulations dated 1743 can now be disregarded, due to the researches of Nicholas Dawnay, published in volume 47 of the *Journal of the Society for Army Historical Research* (JSAHR). Dawnay also wrote the immensely valuable *Standards, Guidons and Colours of the Household Division, 1660–1973* (Tunbridge Wells, 1975). The text of the regulations of 1747, 1751, 1768 and 1844 are usefully reprinted in T.J.Edwards's *Standards, Guidons and Colours of the Commonwealth Forces* (Aldershot, 1953). *Old Scottish Regimental Colours* (Edinburgh, 1885) by Alan Ross is a magnificently illustrated volume which, despite its title, covers both cavalry and infantry. *A History of Irish Flags* by G.A. Hayes-McCoy (Dublin, 1979) is particularly valuable for the flags of regiments raised in Ireland, whether they belonged to the regulars, the militia, or the volunteer and yeomanry movements. Much additional material on all aspects on colours, standards and guidons can be found within the pages of the JSAHR; the individual volumes are best approached through the two printed volumes of indexes, covering volumes 1-40 and volumes 41-68 respectively. The flags of the Board of Ordnance and its successors can be found in G.A. Viner's *Ordnance Flags: Their Origin and Use, Past and Present* (Blackdown, 1960). Even so, a great deal of material still remains buried in regimental histories and journals and in the WO classes of the Public Record Office. Battle honours are treated in depth in Hugh Cook's *Battle Honours of the British and Indian Armies 1662–1982* (London, 1987), and in its predecessor, N.B. Leslie's *Battle Honours of the British and Indian Armies 1695–1914* (London, 1970); the latter includes the date of each award to each regiment, which the former does not.

THE PLATES

A1: 2nd Troop Guidon, Horse Guards, 1747

The warrants of 1751 and 1768 made no specific reference to the regiments of Household Cavalry, so the standards and guidons of these regiments developed along completely independent lines.

Some of the devices carried on the sheets of the Horse Guards and the Horse Grenadier Guards in the middle of the 18th century were similar to those borne on their standards during the reign of King Charles II. These included the royal cipher with a crown and, at the bottom, a line of three crowns (representing the thrones of England, France and Ireland), all angled towards the centre. However, the Union badge of a thistle and a rose conjoined on the same stem was a relatively new device, adopted only after the Union with Scotland in 1707; it first appeared in the 1713 issue of flags.

From 1673 at the latest, each troop carried a standard and a guidon. Both flags carried the same devices. A surviving bill records that in 1761 the cost for each pair of flags was £30. Each troop within the Horse Guards carried flags in its own distinctive colour. The flags of the 1st Troop were crimson, while those of the 2nd Troop were white until 1748, when their colour was changed to blue. The flags of the 3rd and 4th Troops, which were both disbanded in 1746, had been yellow and blue respectively. The 4th Troop had been raised in Scotland – changing the colour of the flags of the 2nd Troop from white to blue can perhaps be seen as an attempt to maintain the Scottish tradition within the regiment. The flags of both the 1st and 2nd Troops had gold fringes, cords and tassels.

The troops of Horse Guards were reorganised and expanded in 1788 to form two regiments, the 1st and 2nd Life Guards. Each regiment carried one standard and two guidons. A second standard was issued to each regiment in 1800. Source: Dawnay, *Standards of the Household Division*.

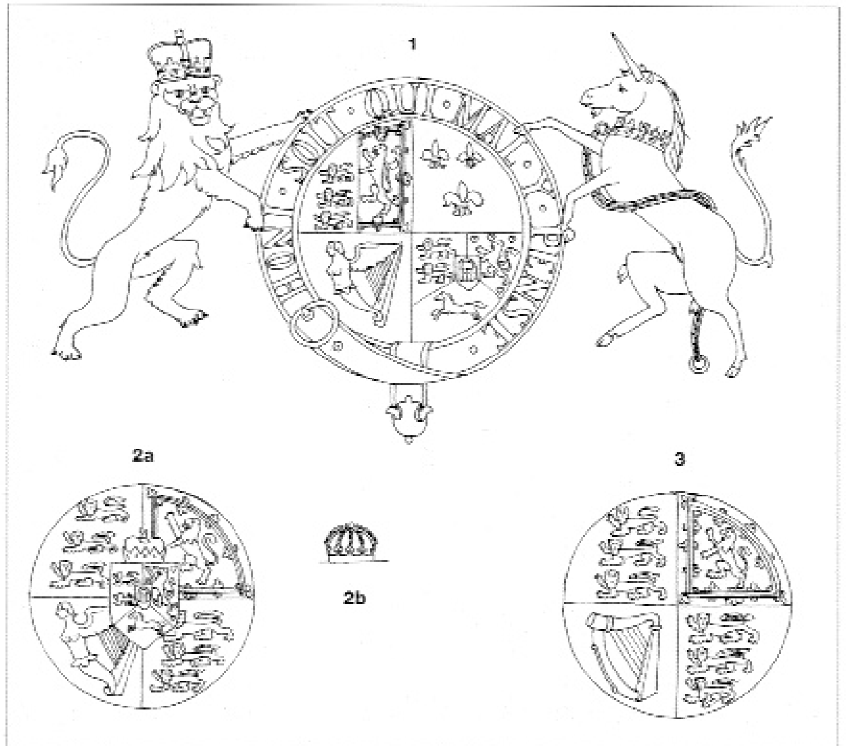
A2: 1st Troop Standard, Horse Grenadier Guards, c.1780

Like the Horse Guards, the Horse Grenadier Guards was also made up of two separate troops – the 1st, which was raised in England, and the 2nd which was Scottish. The colour of the sheets was the reverse of that seen in the Horse Guards, with blue for the 1st Troop and crimson for the 2nd Troop. The flags of both troops had gold fringes, cords and tassels.

As the regiment had been considered originally as the dragoons of the Household troops, each troop was issued with a single guidon; but in 1729/30 each was presented with a standard as well. The result was that there was now little to distinguish the flags of the 1st Troop of Horse Guards from those of the 2nd Troop of Horse Grenadier Guards. The only difference lay in the colour of the scroll that bore the royal motto; this was in gold for the Horse Guards, but in silver for the Horse Grenadiers.

The cost of making up a pair of flags for the Horse Grenadiers was rather less than that paid by the Horse Guards. In the 1770s, for example, the cost of a standard and guidon for the 1st Troop was £27 10s; in 1785, it was £25.

The Horse Grenadiers were disbanded in 1788 and the men permitted to transfer to the two new regiments of Life Guards. Source: Dawnay, *Standards of the Household Division*.


1
HONI SOIT QUI MAL Y PENSE
2a
2b
3

The Royal arms were displayed on one of the standards of the Royal Horse Guards, and on the standards and guidons of numerous yeomanry regiments. They underwent several changes in this period as indicated: (1) the arms borne until 1801; (2a) after the abandonment of the claim to the French throne in 1801; (2b) after the cap on the central shield had been replaced by the crown, once the Electorate of Hanover had become a Kingdom in 1816; (3) after the arms of Hanover had been removed completely in 1837 on the accession of Queen Victoria, who did not inherit that Kingdom.

A3: Union Standard, Royal Horse Guards (The Blues), 1760

The Royal Horse Guards was three squadrons strong in 1747, each squadron carrying its own crimson damask silk standard. The 1st Squadron carried a standard bearing the Royal arms, the 2nd Squadron a standard bearing the crowned royal cipher, and the 3rd Squadron the standard illustrated here, with the Union badge. All three standards had gold fringes, cords and tassels. Unlike their equivalent in the Life Guards, these standards do not include the row of three small crowns at the bottom of the sheet.

In 1758 the badges on two of the standards were exchanged. The Union badge became the device of the 2nd Squadron, as here, while the crowned Royal cipher became that of the 3rd Squadron. A fourth squadron was added to the regimental establishment in 1794. No contemporary evidence survives to confirm the device borne by the standard of the 4th Squadron at that date; the most that can be said is that by 1807 it bore the letters 'RHG', the abbreviated regimental title.

The standards of this period each cost between £8 and £11 to embroider, the most expensive being the standard of the 1st Squadron, which bore the most complex badge, the Royal arms. Source: Dawnay, *Standards of the Household Division*.

A4: Union Standard, Household Cavalry, 1820s

The Royal Horse Guards officially became part of the Household Cavalry in 1827, but there had been little to distinguish between its flags and those of the two regiments of Life Guards since the beginning of the 19th century. From their creation in 1788 the Life Guards carried flags that bore a row of three small crowns in the base. However, these were removed in 1801 when Britain's claim to the French throne was finally abandoned, and the Act of Union saw Ireland newly represented by the addition of a shamrock to the Union badge of rose and thistle.

The flags of the Life Guards and the Royal Horse Guards grew even closer in style in 1823 when the former stopped carrying guidons. Shortly after this date, with an issue of new flags, all three regiments were carrying four standards each. The two regiments of Life Guards each carried one standard with the royal arms (the 'Sovereign's') and three Union standards. The Royal Horse Guards, by contrast, carried a Sovereign's standard, a Union standard, a standard bearing the royal cipher, and a standard bearing the regimental cipher.

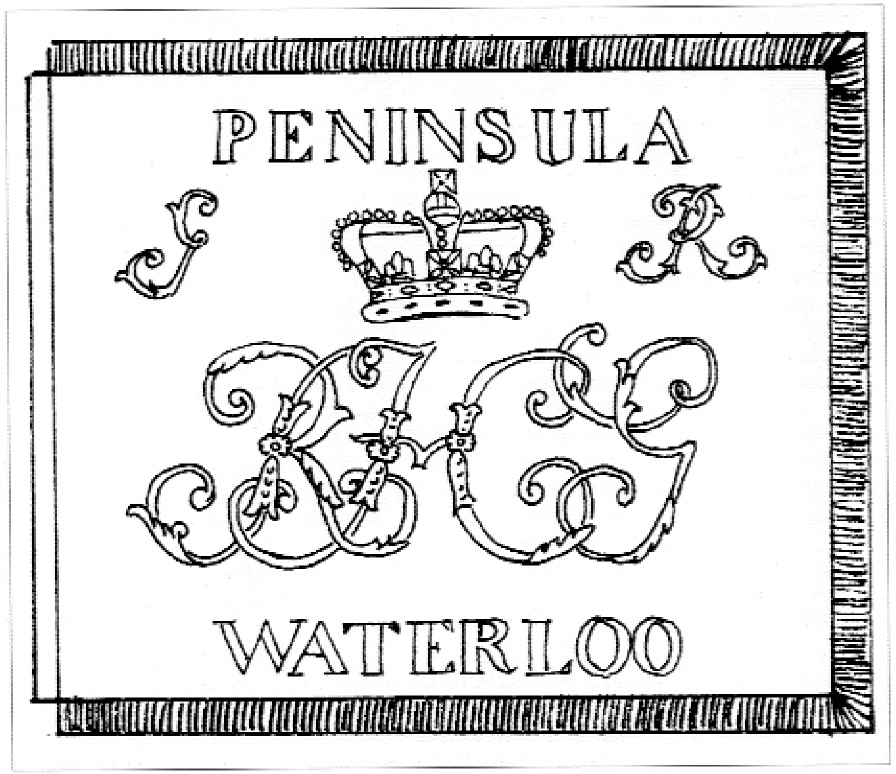
Battle honours were added to the flags of all these regiments for the first time in 1816, allowing the Household Cavalry once again to show its independence of the rest of the British Army. Battle honours were, and continue to be, embroidered directly onto the sheet, rather than on the scrolls used by the line regiments. Honours for the Peninsular campaign and for Waterloo had been awarded in 1815, the first in April and the second in December, but they were added to the flags only when the next new issue was presented early in 1816. This same issue also included an extra fifth standard for the Royal Horse Guards, for reasons which remain obscure; it remained a one-off and was never repeated in subsequent issues.

Source: Dawnay, *Standards of the Household Division*.

B1: Troop Corporal-Major, Royal Horse Guards, 1835, with King William's Standard

This figure is based on a portrait of Troop Corporal-Major

The Regimental Standard of the Royal Horse Guards, 1824. Sheet: crimson damask with a gold fringe. Lettering: gold. Source: Dawnay, *Standards of the Household Division*.



Robert Goldie by A.-J. Dubois Drahonet, which shows him carrying the Sovereign's standard. A troop corporal-major in the Household Cavalry was the equivalent of a troop sergeant-major in a line regiment. The style of uniform worn was typical of a period that saw no hard campaigning liable to reduce the amount of unnecessary ornament. The dictates of fashion ruled, unhindered by considerations of practicality. The so-called 'Roman' helmet was introduced in 1817 for all the Household regiments. At the same time a tight, dark blue, double-breasted coatee with a high red Prussian collar, worn with brass shoulder scales, was also brought in. The coatee was worn with white breeches and jack-boots. The troop corporal-major's rank is shown by his aiguillette and by the bullion epaulette fringe on his left shoulder. Source: Spencer-Smith, Jenny, *Portraits of a King: the British Military Paintings of A.-J. Dubois Drahonet, 1791-1834* (London, 1990).

B2: King William's Standard, Royal Horse Guards, 1835

Although the Royal Horse Guards had never carried guidons, this did not prevent King William IV from presenting the regiment with a sumptuous flag of this type on 13 August 1832. The guidon has a sheet of heavy damask silk richly embroidered in gold. The crown in the centre, with four arches, does not adhere to any pattern normally associated with standards (or, indeed, with infantry colours). Sometimes referred to as an 'Albert Crown', because a crown similar in design formed part of the armorial display of the Prince Consort, it was in fact introduced by King George IV when still Prince of Wales. The prince apparently took his inspiration from German sources, for no such crown has ever formed part of the British royal regalia. The crowns displayed above the royal badges in the corner of the sheet take the more usual shape of the St. Edward's crown.

The extra battle honours are all most irregular. 'Dettingen' was eventually granted to all the Household Cavalry regiments, but only in 1882. The Royal Horse Guards did not receive 'Warbourg' until 1909, when it was spelled 'Warburg'. 'Cateau', for the battle of 26 April 1794, was never granted to the regiment under that particular name; however, the honour was awarded as 'Beaumont', again in 1909. Nor did the regiment ever receive the honour 'Minden' – but then neither did any of the cavalry regiments present at the battle, so disgraced were they by Sackville's inaction on that day.

The regiment attempted to have the grant of this guidon renewed in 1880, but the Commander-in-Chief – the Duke of Cambridge – refused it on the grounds that it had been a personal gift of the sovereign and not an official issue as such. The guidon has not been carried on a mounted parade since 1887, and was last carried on foot in 1911 at the unveiling of the Queen Victoria monument in front of Buckingham Palace. It is ironic that it should be King William, who did so much to enforce uniformity in so many aspects of army life, including a ban on the issue of extra colours to certain infantry regiments, who broke his own rule for one of his Household regiments. Source: Dawnay, *Standards of the Household Division*.

B3: Sovereign's Standard, Household Cavalry, 1853

From 1863 onwards responsibility for purchasing standards for the Household Cavalry passed from the Lord Chamberlain's Office (part of the Royal Household) to the War Office, thereby putting the Household Cavalry on the same footing as the line regiments. However, this measure had no immediate effect. The then current standards, which had been presented in 1853, continued in use until 1873, when proposals for a new set passed to the Inspector of Regimental Colours. The Inspector objected to the designs as presented, on the grounds that the battle honours were placed above the Royal arms or other Royal devices. The revised version saw the battle honours moved to the bottom edge of the sheet.

The Household Cavalry successfully ignored the provisions of the 1858 Regulations, which had reduced the number of standards carried to one per regiment. All three regiments continued to carry the standards they had received in 1853, and a decision of November 1873 confirmed this state of affairs, allowing the regiments of the Household Cavalry to maintain their exceptional status and carry one standard per squadron. Source: Dawnay, *Standards of the Household Division*.

C1: Regimental Standard, 2nd Horse, 1750

This is the Regimental standard as reconstructed from the regulation of 1747. The 2nd Horse received standards in 1750, but in an unknown quantity. They were still carrying these in 1768 and, indeed, may have continued to do so until 1772; certainly the inspection returns make no reference to the issue of new standards in the intervening period. The regiment, which became the 5th Dragoon Guards in 1788, received its first issue as dragoon guards in 1796. These are no doubt the flags referred to in the inspection returns of 1800, when the regiment was reported to have four standards in good condition.

To judge from Pomeroy's regimental history, the 1796 issue of flags was in fact in the wrong colour. The colour of the sheets was green, appropriate for a regiment with green facings, while the 5th Dragoon Guards had changed the colour of its facings to yellow in 1788. The same source also indicates some irregularity as regards the central badge. All cavalry standards and guidons bore the badge of the running white horse in their corner cartouches, but according to Pomeroy the 5th also claimed this as their distinctive badge. It is impossible to confirm the truth of the matter, since no actual standards have survived from this period. It did, however, appear on officers' sword belt plates at the same date. When the regiment was questioned on its right to use the badge in 1833 it certainly cited the 1796 issue in its evidence, but its claim was denied.

In 1804 the 5th was granted the subsidiary title of 'Princess Charlotte of Wales's', after the only child of the future King George IV, and the regiment adopted her cipher, 'PCW', as its distinctive badge. This title was confirmed in 1823, some five years after Charlotte's death; but use of the cipher was abandoned in 1838, when it was replaced by the simple 'V' over 'D.G.'

Vestigia nulla retrorsum was a motto of long standing within the regiment, although it is impossible to identify exactly when it was adopted or granted. Pomeroy suggests that the motto may have been a reward for the gallantry of the 2nd Horse at Elixheim in July 1705. The regiment charged, recharged and eventually inflicted a comprehensive defeat on a larger body of Bavarian cavalry, in the process capturing nine enemy standards. The regiment later applied to have this action granted as a battle honour, but their request was turned down. Note that the cords are of mixed gold and crimson on all four flags on Plate C. Source: Pomeroy, R.L., *The Story of a Regiment of Horse* (Edinburgh, 1924).

C2: King's Standard, 7th (Princess Royal's) Dragoon Guards, c.1790

The Princess Royal's, formerly the 4th Horse, is known from inspection returns to have received new standards in 1766 and again in 1786, two years before it was converted into a rather less prestigious regiment of dragoon guards. The next return, submitted in 1789, shows that by the following year the standards already bore the new regimental title. At the time of its conversion the regiment was granted the subsidiary title of 'Princess Royal's', after the eldest daughter of King George III, Princess Charlotte Augusta Matilda (1766-1828). Perhaps this was a further attempt to soften the blow to regimental pride, for the 1st Horse was also the recipient of a subsidiary title, 'Royal Irish', on the same occasion. Note that its fringe is gold and silver mixed, as is that of C3 below. Source: *Regiment*, issue 25, p.45.

C3: 3rd Squadron Standard, 3rd (Prince of Wales's) Dragoon Guards, c.1780

The plate represents the standard presented to the regiment in 1778. It joined standards for the 1st and 2nd Squadrons, which had been presented in 1769. These in turn had replaced sets presented in June 1755 and in 1763. The three badges of the Prince of Wales's plumes, the rising sun and the dragon had been granted to the regiment in 1765, when it received the additional title of 'Prince of Wales's'. The number of badges borne on the sheet required a change in the position of the regimental number, now in a cartouche of its own, below the central badge. Note the cartouche in the upper hoist corner, which appears to be reversed. It is shown thus on the restored flag, although it is possible that this could be an error from a previous restoration. This particular standard must have been replaced before 1802, since there are no shamrocks in the wreath. However, its overall style may have continued to influence its replacements. Writing in 1807, the colonel of the regiment wrote of the current set of standards, 'I consider no alteration has been made for many years as the present standards were made to correspond with the old ones.' Source: *JSAHR*, vol.27, pp.81-82.

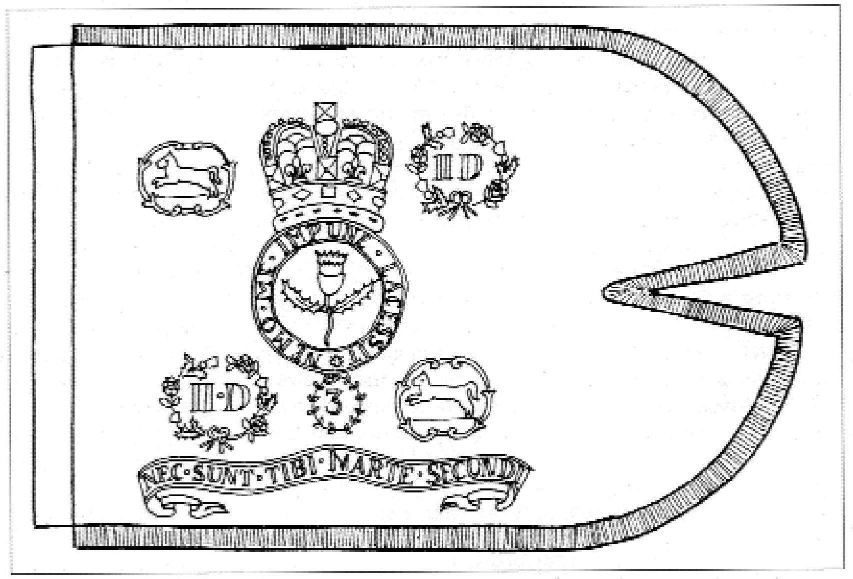
C4: Second Guidon, 4th (Royal Irish) Dragoon Guards, c.1838

The 1st Horse had certainly received new standards in 1767. When the regiment changed its status to that of dragoon guards in 1788 it was granted the subsidiary title of 'Royal Irish' (see the notes to Plate C2). New standards embodying these changes were presented to the regiment in 1790, and were described in the inspection report as 'very handsome'.

On 21 November 1838 the Royal Irish was granted a special badge consisting of a harp and crown with the star of the Order of St. Patrick. However, the crowned harp badge is not in evidence in the surviving guidon. The motto displayed below the star, *Quis seperabit* (Who shall separate us) was the motto of the Order of St Patrick, and alluded to a desire for a close, indissoluble link between Britain and Ireland. Source: Hayes-McCoy, *History of Irish Flags*.

D1: Troop Sergeant-Major, 7th (The Princess Royal's) Dragoon Guards, c.1880, with the Royal Standard

All the regiments of dragoon guards were issued with the 1871 pattern helmet in brass. The individual regiments were distinguished by the colour of the plumes and by the devices borne on the helmet plates; for Other Ranks the device consisted of the regimental number. In essence, the tunic is that introduced in 1855, with collar and cuffs in the black of the regimental facings. The tunic itself remained little changed until 1914, although other modifications were made to the uniform during this time. Chief among these was the abolition of booted overalls for mounted duties, and their replacement by pantaloons and knee boots.



The Third Guidon of the 2nd Dragoons, c.1783. Sheet: dark blue with a gold fringe. Centre: crimson with a green and mauve thistle, within a green circlet with gold lettering. Figure: 3 in gold within a green wreath. Lower scroll: light blue with gold letters and edging. This guidon bears a most unofficial motto. Source: Almack, C., *The History of the Second Dragoons, Royal Scots Greys* (London, n.d.).

The colour of the regimental facings recalls the regiment's 18th century nickname. As the 4th Horse, prior to its conversion to dragoon guards in 1788, the regiment was known as 'The Black Horse' from the colour of its mounts. On conversion the 7th was granted the subsidiary title 'Princess Royal's'. Despite her title, Princess Charlotte's patronage was apparently insufficient to confer the status of a 'Royal' regiment, with its distinctive blue facings.

The rank of troop sergeant-major was first introduced into the British Army in 1809, while the King's Regulations of 1837 defined them as 'in all respects, on the same footing as the other Sergeants of the Regiment, of whom, however, they take precedence.' At the time of their introduction troop sergeant-majors were distinguished by a four-bar chevron, but the badges denoting their rank have been subject to frequent change. A War Office Circular Memorandum of 1850 adopted a completely different pattern, of a crown above a three-bar chevron. Six years later this was amended, for dragoon regiments only, when another War Office Circular indicated that their troop sergeant-majors should wear a crown above a four-bar chevron. Regulations of 1857 and 1859 then proclaimed a reversion to a four-bar chevron for all. However, photographic evidence from the 1870s reveals that the crown above a three-bar chevron was still in use, a state of affairs confirmed by a further regulation issued at the beginning of 1881. In some regiments a special regimental arm badge accompanied the chevrons, but the 7th did not adopt such a badge until 1898 when they chose the crest of Field Marshal Ligonier, their colonel at the battle of Dettingen in 1743. The regimental standard of Ligonier's Black Horse, carried at the battle, is shown in a line drawing.

D2: Royal Standard, 7th (The Princess Royal's) Dragoon Guards, c.1880

See the notes to Plates C2 and D1 for further information on this regiment. Note that the cords are of mixed gold and crimson on all flags shown on this plate.

D3: Royal Standard, 1st (King's) Dragoon Guards, c.1870

Inspection reports indicate that the regiment had three standards in 1755, but four in the following year. Three standards were issued in 1761, but these were replaced in 1774. A fourth was issued in 1778. These four standards were quickly replaced by three issued to a reduced establishment in 1782. By 1804 the number of flags in service had increased to five, and a sixth had been issued by 1875. Source: Milne, *Standards and Colours*.

E1: King's Guidon, 7th (Queen's Own) Dragoons, c.1750

This plate shows the guidon as described in the 1751 Warrant. Inspection reports show that the regiment received two guidons in 1766, followed by a third in 1778. All three were still in use in 1781. Three new guidons were issued in 1790. The basic pattern of this guidon would have remained unchanged throughout the life of the regiment, save for the addition of the battle honours for the Peninsula and Waterloo. The cords on all the flags on this plate are mixed gold and crimson. Source: 1751 Warrant.

E2: Second Guidon, 9th Dragoons, c.1750

This plate shows the guidon as described in the 1751 Warrant, in buff with a mixed silver and blue fringe. The regiment carried a set of guidons issued in 1753 at least until 1769, and possibly until 1771, when two new ones were issued. These in their turn were still in use in 1789. During the time the 9th carried guidons, it was awarded only one battle honour, that for the Peninsula. Source: 1751 Warrant.

E3: King's Guidon, 1st Royal Dragoons, 1750

During the reign of King Charles II the Royal Dragoons had carried eight guidons, each displaying a different royal badge. At some point over the next half century these eight were replaced by a single royal badge, one furthermore which was completely different to those previously borne. However, so little is known of the guidons carried by the regiment after 1684 that it is impossible to say exactly when this change took place. Dawnay argues, by inference, that it may have been introduced as early as the accession of James II in 1685. The little evidence which does exist shows that the colonel's standard of the Royals bore the same device as the colonel's standard of the Royal Horse Guards. The Royal Horse Guards certainly changed its regimental badge, the royal crest, on that occasion; so, Dawnay suggests, the Royals may well have followed suit.

The Warrant of 1751 directed that the Royal Dragoons were to carry three guidons: the King's Guidon, plus two others that bore the regimental badge of the royal crest of England – a gold lion, shown standing on a green base. Illustrations of these guidons, and of those carried in 1747, show some variation from the pattern described in the Warrant. The badge is enclosed within the garter of the Order of the Garter, which was not prescribed by the regulations. At the same time the Union wreath, which was included, is omitted from the Second and Third Guidons. A scroll has been included in the illustration but remains empty, as no motto had been granted to the regiment.

Two guidons were issued in 1753, followed by a third in 1756, and these may have remained in service until 1771. Two guidons were once more issued in 1771, augmented by a third in 1778. The regiment was reduced to a strength of two squadrons in 1784, and the 1778 guidon was placed in store. The 1771 set was still in use in 1804, together with two guidons issued in 1793 (all suitably altered in 1801). Source: Dawnay, *Standards of the Household Division*.

E4: Second Guidon, 2nd Royal North British Dragoons, c.1785

Inspection returns indicate that the 2nd Royal North British Dragoons received new guidons in 1752, two new guidons in 1766, and a third in 1779. The 1766 pair was replaced in 1783, and these and the 1779 guidon then continued in service until 1802. The return of that year describes the regiment as having four 'good' guidons; at least one other issue must have been made, therefore, between 1783 and 1802.

Like many regiments numbered 2, the 2nd Dragoons were ever anxious to assert that they were in fact 'second to none', and that the number they carried was a mere administrative convenience. They certainly had used an unofficial motto, *Nec sunt tibi marte secundi* (Neither second to you in warfare), on a guidon presented in 1779, but in all probability did not do so for long; it appears to have been dropped soon afterwards, perhaps when the guidon was replaced in 1783. The guidon shown here may be part of that 1783 issue, and shows a different motto, albeit one with the same sentiment: *Secundum nullis*. Two guidons from this set survived to be photographed for Almack's regimental history, where the motto appears only on the Troop Guidon. Both mottoes appear to have been introduced during the colonelcy of Gen. David Hume, colonel of the regiment from 1779 to 1802. Note that the fringe is of mixed gold and silver. Source: actual flag.

F1: Second Guidon, 6th, Inniskilling, Dragoons, c.1800

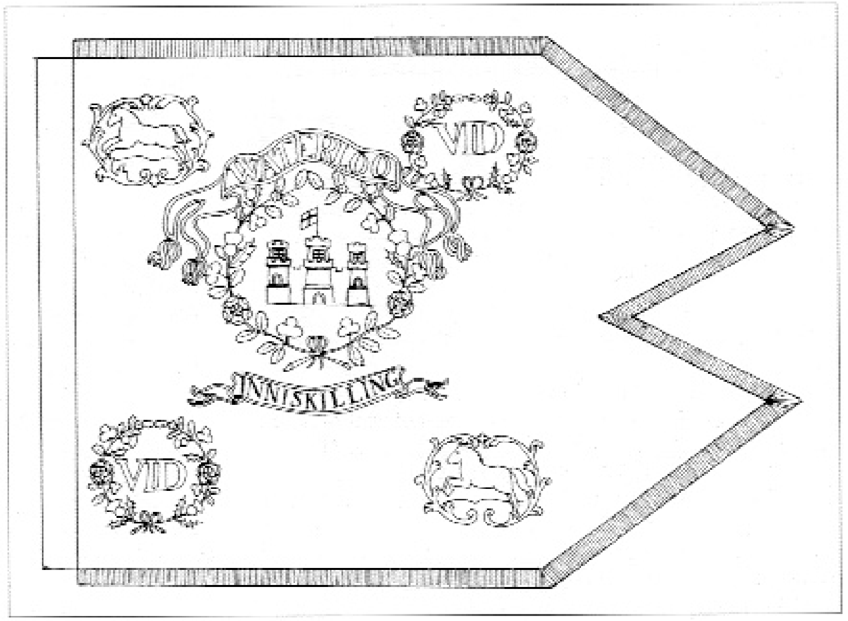
Relatively little information survives concerning the early guidons of the 6th Dragoons. In 1804 the regiment was still carrying four standards, which had been presented in 1781 and 1793 and later altered following the Act of Union of 1801. The Regimental Guidon from the set that succeeded the one illustrated here was something of an anomaly in that its sheet was made in more expensive damask rather than plain silk. From 1747, and perhaps earlier, the 6th Dragoons – like the infantry regiment (the 27th Foot) which shares the title 'Inniskilling' – had borne a badge displaying a castle. The badge is intended to represent the castle in the town of Enniskillen in County Fermanagh, where both regiments originally were raised and after which they were named. Milne, in a discussion of the colour of the 27th Foot, remarks that the badge as it appears more closely resembles the nearby castle of Crom. This is perhaps too pedantic; it is, of course, entirely possible that the device was never intended to be an exact representation of Enniskillen Castle, but merely an emblematic representation of castles in general. The fringe is mixed silver and blue. All cords on Plate F are of mixed gold and crimson. Source: Jackson, E.S., *The Inniskilling Dragoons: the Records of an Old Cavalry Regiment* (London, 1909).

F2: King's Standard, 1st Royal Dragoons, 1820

At some time between 1751 and 1807 the guidons of the Royal Dragoons (E3) underwent a number of changes. By 1807 the badge of the standing lion upon a green base had been replaced by a walking lion with one paw raised and with no green base. The garter of the Order of the Garter continues to surround the badge, but is now enclosed by a Union wreath of thistles, roses and shamrocks, while the unauthorised motto *Spectemur agendo* (discussed above) is placed below the wreath. The wreath (at that time, of course, comprising only thistles and roses) was certainly in use by 1778, since a bill of that year describes a new guidon with a badge, 'within a wreath, the King's Crest, Garter and Crown'. No reference is made to a motto, however, so it can only have been introduced between 1778 and 1807, perhaps with the pair of guidons issued in 1793.

The warrants of 1747, 1751 and 1768 all specified that regiments of dragoons should carry guidons; yet the regiment still has in its possession two standards, one of which is shown here. The crown appears to be the Imperial State Crown of King George IV, who came to the throne in 1820. This perhaps gives a clue to the date of these flags, but it does not reveal why they were created in the first place. The King's Standard displays the battle honours earned by the regiment for the Peninsula and Waterloo, which are embroidered directly onto the sheet in the fashion of the Household Cavalry rather than placed within a scroll; the devices, including the wreath and the motto on the Second Standard, are the same as those described in 1807.

The King's Regulation of 1822 re-emphasised that dragoon regiments were to carry guidons, and it seems likely that these two standards were taken out of service soon afterwards. But why were they made up at all? Certainly, the word 'standard' was applied indiscriminately to any kind of cavalry flag, whether a true standard or a guidon, and some confusion may have arisen there. Yet again, tradition may have been the key factor, for there seems to have been some history of carrying standards within the regiment. The return



The Guidon of the 6th Dragoons, taken into use in 1801. Sheet: yellow damask with a silver fringe. Waterloo scroll: blue with silver edges and lettering. Lower scroll: black on white with a silver edge. This rather sumptuous guidon was the first to be acquired by a new colonel, Maj. Gen. the Earl of Pembroke, who clearly wanted to make his mark. Source: Jackson, E.S., *The Inniskilling Dragoons* (London, 1909).

sent to the Inspector of Regimental Colours in 1807 reveals that the King's Guidon was, in fact, a standard (identified by the person completing the return, just to add to the confusion, as a 'colour'). Was this sufficient to override regulation and ensure that the non-regulation standards were passed by the Inspector of Regimental Colours, or were they wholly unofficial? Source: Dawnay, *Standards of the Household Division*.

F3: Second Guidon, Royal North British Dragoons, c.1848

This guidon forms part of the last set to be issued to the Greys before the regulations of 1855 compelled each regiment to carry a single guidon. When sold in 1992, the sheets measured approximately 26 by 37ins; the fringe is of mixed gold and silver, and note the unusual finial. It bears the eagle badge granted in October 1839, as well as the battle honours awarded for the Napoleonic and Crimean Wars. Both this guidon and its accompanying Royal Guidon also bear a scroll with the additional regimental motto *Second to none*.

In 1842 the regiment was questioned on their use of this additional motto. Whatever the regiment's response, it proved inadequate. Lord Hill, the Commander-in-Chief, intervened in person, and on his express instructions the War Office ordered that the motto should not appear in the Army List. It was, Hill argued, impossible to allow this when a precedent had already been set for the Coldstream Guards. The Coldstreams were entitled to exactly the same motto, but had never received permission to display it in the Army List. But despite the objections of Lord Hill, the Greys eventually won the argument, and the motto appeared in the Army List for the first time in August 1866. Source: Ross, *Old Scottish Regimental Colours*.

F4: Royal Guidon, 1st Royal Dragoons, 1868

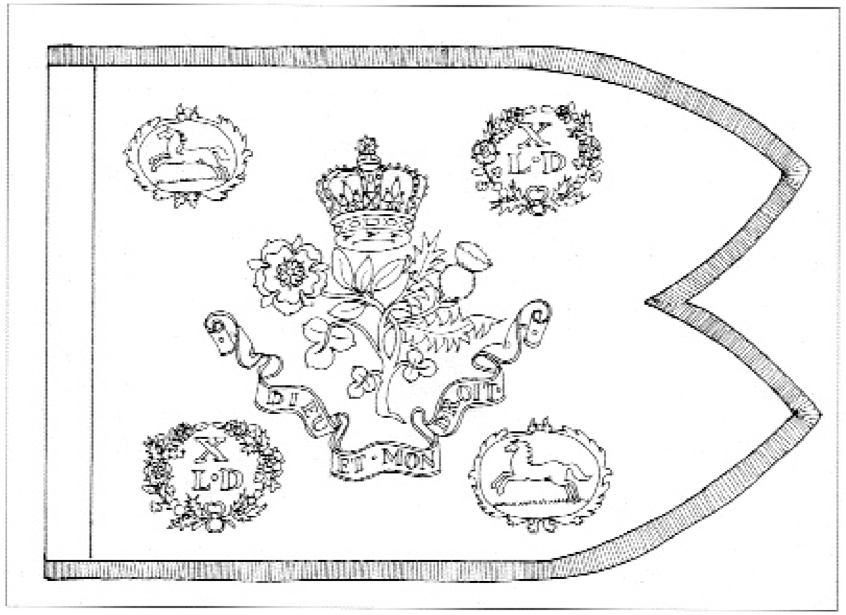
In 1838 the Royals were granted a badge displaying a representation of the eagle standard of the French 105th Line Infantry Regiment, which they had captured at the battle of Waterloo. The badge was probably first included on the guidons that were submitted for royal approval in 1839. It was with this submission that the controversy concerning the regimental motto, *Spectemur agendo*, first arose. Two battle honours for the Crimean War, 'Balaklava' and 'Sevastopol', were awarded to the regiment in October 1855.

An issue of new guidons was scheduled for 1859, but the regulations were changed, reducing the number to be carried to one per regiment. The spearhead finial was replaced by a lion and crown at the same time. The new single guidon incorporated all the devices previously displayed on the second and third guidons only – the badge, the motto and the battle honours. Source: Dawnay, *Standards of the Household Division*.

G1: Cornet, 21st Light Dragoons (Royal Foresters), c.1762, with King's Guidon

The first light dragoons in the British Army were created in 1756 as light troops attached to eleven regiments of dragoon guards and dragoons. The experiment proved successful, and new regiments of light dragoons were introduced from 1759 onwards.

The 21st was the last such regiment to be raised and was formed on 5 April 1760. Its colonel was John Manners, Marquis of Granby, at that time serving with the British forces in Germany. The regiment was given the subsidiary title of Royal, or Royal Windsor, Foresters. Its men wore a cap similar to that issued to other light dragoon regiments, different only in that it had an asymmetrical front plate. This style of plate was otherwise unknown in the British Army, but it was used in the Hanoverian army, and had clearly been observed by Granby in Germany. The motto *Hic et ubique* (Here and everywhere) is displayed both on the front of the cap and on the regiment's Second and Third Guidons. Granby had originally wished to decorate the helmet with a unicorn, taken from a supporter of his own coat of arms, but his request was turned down on the grounds that it was contrary to regulations. The regiment never served abroad, and was disbanded at Nottingham in 1763. Source: Lawson, C.C.P., *History of the Uniforms of the British Army*, vol.1 (London, 1941).



The King's Guidon, 10th Light Dragoons. Sheet: scarlet rather than crimson. Scroll: dark blue with gold decorations. This guidon is similar in style to the Third Guidon of the same regiment (Plate H3) and shares a similar provenance, so it may be part of the same set. Source: actual flag.

G2: King's Guidon, 21st Light Dragoons (Royal Foresters), c.1762

The King's Guidon carried by the 21st Light Dragoons almost, but not quite, follows the regulations. Its unofficial features can be found in the cartouches, which were meant to display the 'rank of the regiment'. Instead they bear only the letters 'R.F.' for Royal Foresters; the regimental number 'XXI LD' has been omitted. It may well be that this issue of guidons had been made up before the regiment was allocated a number. In addition, the crimson compartments containing the letters are in the wrong colour; according to regulations they should have been blue, the colour of the regimental facings. The Second and Third Guidons bore the royal cipher in the centre as a badge. This was placed above the regimental motto. When Milne examined them at Belvoir Castle in the 1890s, the guidons were about 34ins long by about 28ins wide. Note that all the fringes on Plate G are gold and crimson mixed. Source: Milne, *Standards and Colours*.

G3: 4th Squadron Guidon, 19th Light Dragoons, 1805

The custom of the Honourable East India Company had long been to present honorary colours and standards to regiments which it judged to have performed outstanding feats of arms. Two cavalry regiments (as well as several infantry regiments belonging to both Crown and Company) were selected for this honour following the battle of Assaye in 1803: one was an Indian regiment, the 4th Madras Light Cavalry, the other the 19th Light Dragoons. The Company expressed the hope that the standards would 'be used by these corps whilst they continued in India, or until His Majesty's pleasure respecting them should be signified.' However, their appearance remains a mystery. No description or drawing survives; the honorary standard received by the 19th has since been lost, while that awarded to the 4th Madras may not even have been presented.

What is certain, however, is that on 10 April 1807 the 19th, in common with two of the infantry regiments honoured at the battle, was granted a special badge to be borne on all its standards. The device consisted of an elephant and the word 'Assaye'. Since all the regiments honoured after the battle, including the Indian units, bore this badge, it is probable that the honorary standards also incorporated it. This 4th Squadron guidon is in the colour of the regimental facings. The elephant badge is in the centre; the cartouches in the second and third corners of the sheet should contain a Union badge, but instead contain the royal cipher. Note the squadron-numbered medallion motif.

The 19th Light Dragoons was disbanded in 1821. Later in the century Sir John Vandaleur, a descendant of the then colonel, passed the guidons to the regiment's eventual successors, the 19th Hussars. The new regiment, raised in 1861 from former soldiers of the East India Company, was permitted to resume the honours and badge of the old 19th in 1874. Source: Milne, *Standards and Colours*.

H1: King's Guidon, 18th Light Dragoons, c.1805

The compartment that bears the regimental number is incorrectly coloured crimson, instead of the white of the regimental facings called for by regulation. The compartments of the 3rd Squadron Guidon are correctly coloured white. Unlike the infantry, which never used white alone as a sheet colour, cavalry regiments appear to have given no thought to the possibility that the standards or guidons of units with white facings could be mistaken for flags of surrender, and never made alterations to a white sheet. When sold in 1989, the sheet measured 23ins by 32ins; there was no silver fringe.

The regiment was disbanded in 1821. A new 18th regiment was formed in 1858 and was given the authority to resume the battle honours of its predecessor on 20 November of the same year. Source: actual flag.

H2: King's Guidon, 23rd Light Dragoons, 1816

The 23rd Light Dragoons was first raised around 1794 as the 26th, but was renumbered as the 23rd in 1803, following the disbandment of a number of regiments. The regiment was converted to lancers in 1816, but was then disbanded in its turn in the following year.

The guidon illustrated here (with its tail 'folded' to fit our page) is one of a set of three; it must have been made up after the regiment had been renumbered in 1803, and was probably part of the only issue it received in its short life. This can be inferred from the guidon's appearance, in particular the way in which the scrolls that bear the regiment's battle honours have been wedged in between the other devices; 'Peninsula' and 'Waterloo' can only have been added in 1815 or 1816. Moreover, the Second and Third Guidons both have blue sheets, which accords with the colour of the regimental facings only as they were between 1803 and 1806. After this date the colour of the facings was changed to crimson, but it would seem that the existing guidons were simply altered and that no new flags were taken into service. Source: actual flag.

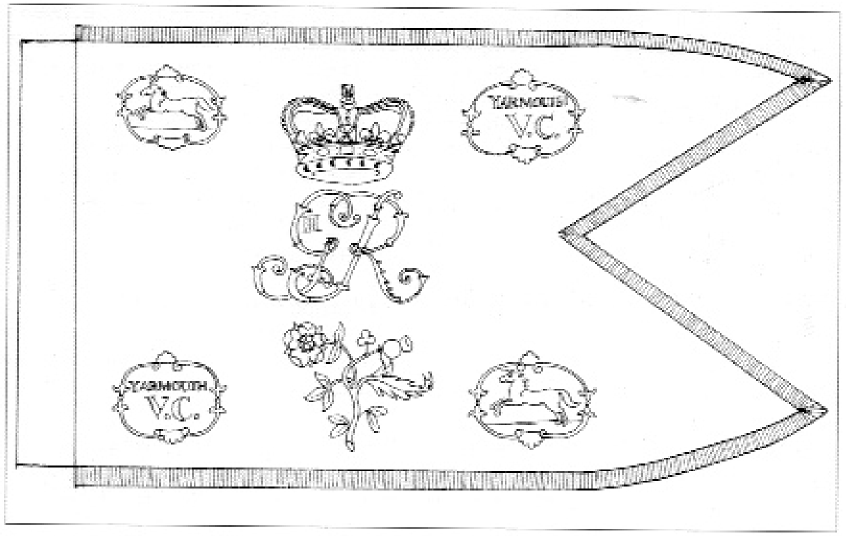
H3: 3rd Squadron Guidon, 10th Light Dragoons (Hussars), c.1820

This guidon was probably part of the last set ever issued to the 10th Light Dragoons. It bears the honours for the Peninsula and Waterloo and so must post-date 1815; perhaps more significantly, it was for many years in the possession of the family of Charles, 3rd Marquis of Londonderry KG (1778–1854), colonel of the 10th between 1820 and 1843, and so still colonel in 1834 when light dragoons stopped carrying guidons altogether.

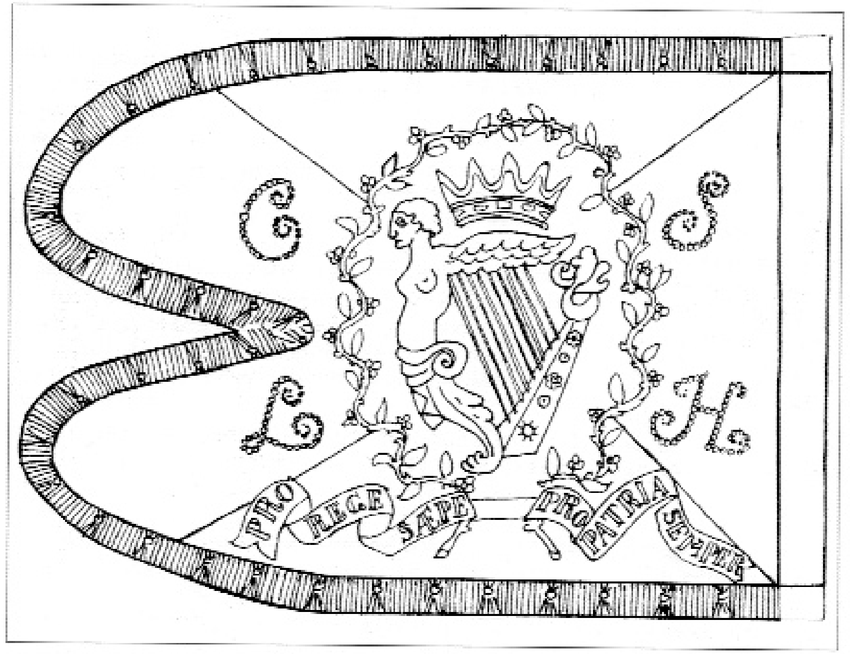
The guidon presents several non-regulation features. The wreath is particularly rich and detailed, while the squadron number is painted directly onto the sheet rather than placed on a crimson disc. Neither does the guidon bear the other badges – the rising sun and the red dragon – normally to be found on the flags of a regiment with the subsidiary title of 'Prince of Wales's'. In 1988, when the guidon came up for auction, the sheet measured 23ins on the staff by 34½ins long. The gold fringe is now missing. Source: actual flag.

H4: King's Guidon, 14th (King's) Light Dragoons, 1835

The 14th Light Dragoons had the distinctive badge of a black and gold Prussian eagle, granted in 1798 when the regiment was awarded the subsidiary title of the Duchess of York's Own,



The obverse of the Guidon of the Yarmouth Volunteer Cavalry, shown in Plate I2. Cipher: gold. Union badge: natural colours. Source: Harvey, *Norfolk Yeomanry Cavalry*.



The reverse of the Guidon of the County Sligo Light Horse, whose obverse is shown in Plate I3. Sheet: upper and lower quadrants in rose pink, left and right quadrants in black. Centre: embroidered in gold on a green background. Scroll: likewise black. Lettering: all in silver. The harp, crown and the letters CSLH are all heightened by the use of sequins. Source: Hayes-McCoy, *Irish Flags*.

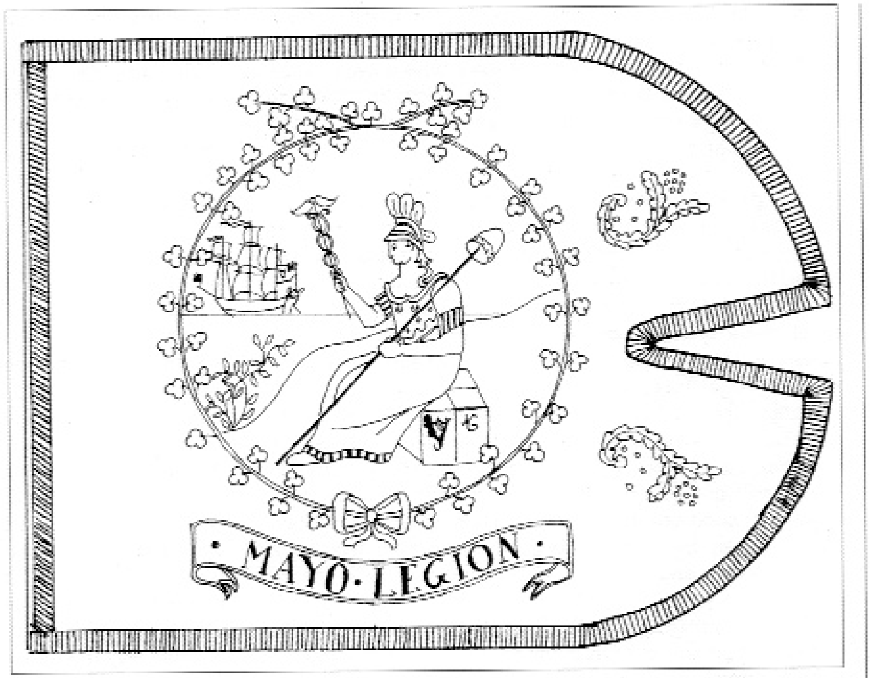
as the duchess at that time was Princess Frederica Charlotte of Prussia. Note that the fringe is mixed silver and crimson.

When, in 1830, the regiment became the 14th (King's) Light Dragoons, the eagle badge was relegated to the corner cartouches, placed on a white background, and the regimental title was removed to the centre, surrounded by the garter of the Order of the Garter. The Squadron Guidons, of course, changed colour once more, following the change of facings, to the blue of a 'Royal' regiment. Source: Cannon, R., *Historical Record of the 14th, or King's, Regiment of Light Dragoons* (London, 1847) and contemporary troop guidon.

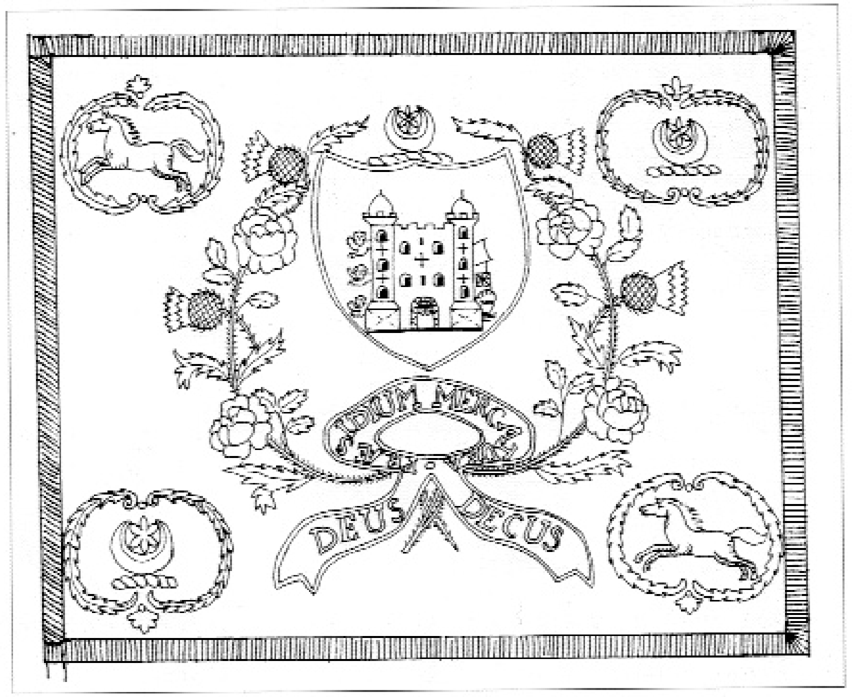
I1: Cornet, Yarmouth Volunteer Cavalry, 1798, with guidon

The figure illustrated here is based on a portrait of Lt. William Palgrave (1771-1838), who was appointed to the regiment on 20 June 1798. The troop was one of a very large number of independent troops in the county of Norfolk at this time – as many as seventeen by the time Wilson's chart was published in 1807. Almost all of the troops listed for the county wore red uniforms with black facings. The uniform worn by Palgrave is typical of many of the yeomanry units of this period, with its Tarleton helmet, frogged jacket, waistcoat and breeches. The height of his stock and kerchief reveal him to be a man of some fashionable aspirations. Born in Coltishall, he was one of the troop's original officers, but appears to have remained a lieutenant. He later became Mayor of Great Yarmouth. The obverse of the guidon is shown in an accompanying line illustration. Source: Harvey, J.R., *Records of the Norfolk Yeomanry Cavalry* (Norwich, 1908).

The Guidon of the Mayo Legion Light Horse, c.1780, obverse. Sheet: deep blue green with gold fringe. Centre: white with a green wreath; Hibernia dressed in white with brown hair, her breastplate decorated in blue, her helmet with red plumes; ground green; bale: white with black markings; pole and caduceus silver; cap of liberty white and blue; sea and ship in natural colours, the ship flying a red ensign with a harp badge. Scroll white with black letters and silver edge. Swags: silver. Source: *Bulletin of the Irish Georgian Society*, vol. 33, p.15.



The Standard of the Drogheda Cavalry, 1796, obverse. Sheet: crimson with a gold fringe on all four sides. Centre: a red shield with a silver castle, three gold lions and a gold ship with white sails, which flies the Union flag. Crest: a white crescent and a gold star. Scroll: white with gold lettering and edging. Source: *Bulletin of the Irish Georgian Society*, vol. 33, p.27.



I2: Guidon, Yarmouth Volunteer Cavalry, 1798

This plate shows the reverse of the guidon carried by the cornet in Plate I1. The arms displayed in the centre are those of the town of Great Yarmouth. Although the various troops raised within the county were not regimented together, several of them used similar badges on their guidons. The standard of the Blofield and South Walsham Troop and that of the Holkham Yeomanry Cavalry both displayed a shield bearing a castle (presumably intended to represent Norwich castle), and it is likely that the standard presented to the Clackclose Troop also bore such a badge – its shoulder-belt plates certainly showed a similar three-towered castle.

The guidon of the Yarmouth Volunteer Cavalry was presented from the balcony of the town's Angel Inn by Lady Bacon, the wife of the troop commander, Captain Sir Edmund Bacon, Bt. The guidon was received by the cornet, Richard Ferrier, before being taken to the parish church where a service of consecration was held. The regiment then returned to parade in the Market Place before moving off for exercises. The day finished back at the Angel Inn, this time the venue for a celebratory dinner. Source: Harvey, *Norfolk Yeomanry Cavalry*.

I3: Guidon, County Sligo Light Horse, c.1786

At the time of the War of American Independence the militia in Ireland was virtually moribund; consequently a large number of units of volunteers were organised for the purpose of local defence. The term 'Volunteer' was used indiscriminately for all of these units, no matter what their arm of service – cavalry, infantry or artillery. Around one thousand such units were raised in total, although their exact number remains uncertain. They varied greatly in size and were only at length organised into larger units of battalion or regimental strength. Recruited largely but by no means exclusively from the Protestant population, north and south, the volunteer movement soon devoted itself to politics rather than military affairs. Riven by internal divisions over Irish legislative independence and Catholic emancipation, it was finally disbanded in 1793.

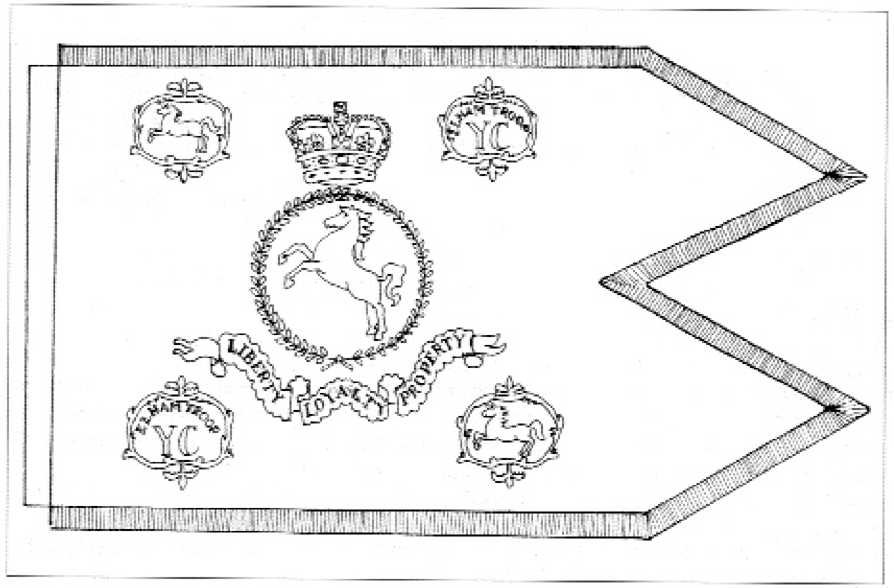
The flags carried by the Volunteers were extremely diverse in their symbolism, and few if any paid the slightest attention to the regulations which governed the flags of the regular army. The guidon shown here is quite typical in this respect. The sheet is 2ft wide by 3ft long and displays hand-embroidered devices, the colours heightened (e.g. on the sunrays) by sequins; note the tassels 'knotted' into the silver fringe at intervals. The reverse is shown in the accompanying line illustration; the crown is a so-called 'Irish' crown, much in favour with the Volunteers, as it conveyed the sense that Ireland remained a separate kingdom, although one loyal to the cause of King George. Carrying a flag whose two sides were quite different was not unique to this unit. The Royal Glin Hussars and the Tullamore True Blue Rangers, to quote just two other examples, both carried guidons of non-regulation shape, where the obverse differed from the reverse.

During the 1790s the Volunteers were replaced by organised regiments of Militia, which were assisted from 1796 onwards by newly raised Yeomanry units. Like 'volunteer', the term 'yeomanry' was used to describe all the new units, whether infantry or cavalry. Most were disbanded after 1815, but some lingered on until the mid-1830s. Unlike the Volunteers of the 1780s, the Yeomanry units were recruited exclusively from the Protestant tenantry, and it is hardly surprising that they were much concerned to protect the Protestant Ascendancy. This is made abundantly clear by the devices they employed on their flags. Many of the surviving examples bear the royal arms, cipher and/or motto, and Union wreaths. Unlike the flags of the Volunteers, most Yeomanry standards and guidons bear a central badge and four corner cartouches. However, their adherence to the regulations was by no means complete. Although most units were uniformed as light dragoons and therefore carried guidons, some, like the Drogheda Cavalry, contravened regulations by carrying standards instead. Similar anomalies are to be found among English Yeomanry units (see the notes to Plate J3 below). It may be that, despite their uniform, the Drogheda Cavalry and its fellows thought of themselves as heavy cavalry and so chose to carry the standards befitting their self-appointed status. Source: Hayes-McCoy, *History of Irish Flags*.

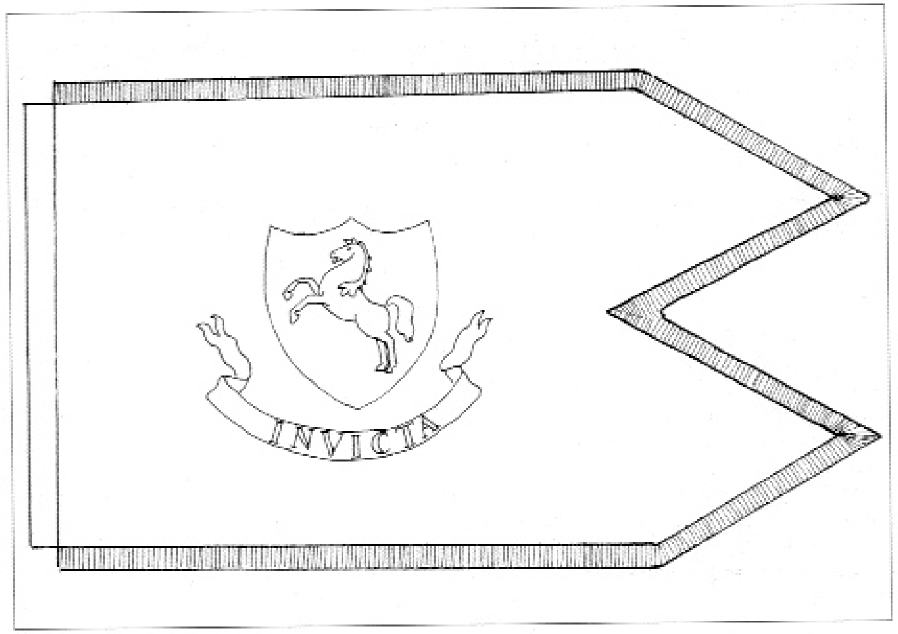
J1: Guidon, Black Heath Cavalry, 1798

The Black Heath Cavalry was a unit of Kent Yeomanry, and the guidon shown here bears prominently the traditional white horse device of that county. Unusually, both this horse and those in the corner cartouches face away from the staff instead of towards it. This is unlikely to have been deliberate and was most probably a mistake made at the time that the guidon was painted.

A contemporary of the Black Heath Cavalry was the Elham Troop, East Kent Yeomanry, which carried two guidons both bearing the white horse and illustrated in the accompanying line drawings. The Elham Troop had previously been based in Evington, where, in 1797, it was presented with a purple and orange standard bearing, in the centre, the royal arms embroidered in gold thread, and the motto *Liberty, loyalty and property*. Sources: *JSAHR*, vol.9, pp.126, 137; Smith, R.J., *The East Kent Mounted Rifles* (Feltham, 1992).



The Guidon of the Elham Troop of Yeomanry (Kent), c.1800. Sheet: grey with a gold fringe. Centre: a horse in silver within a golden wreath. Scroll: gold with black lettering. Source: Smith, *East Kent Mounted Rifles*.



The same Troop's second Guidon. Sheet: deep red. Shield and scroll: gold. Horse: silver. Source: Smith, *East Kent Mounted Rifles*.

J2: 3rd Troop Guidon, Loyal Lincoln Rangers, 1798

This guidon bears the arms of the city of Lincoln. The guidon of the 2nd Troop was identical but for the number placed on the medallion which is suspended from the motto scroll. The guidon of the 1st Troop was crimson, and bore the royal coat of arms in the centre, placed above a Union badge. All three were painted, and measure 33ins long by 23ins on the staff. Note the troop-numbered medallion motif below the scroll.

The Rangers were in fact presented with no fewer than five guidons in total – three of these were painted and are described above, while two more were embroidered. One of the latter bore the royal arms, the other the knot badge of the Harrington family. Source: *JSAHR*, vol.10, pp.166-67.

J3: Standard, Northumberland and Newcastle Volunteer Cavalry, 1822

The Northumberland and Newcastle Volunteer Cavalry was a new creation of 1819, a successor to various troops raised during the Napoleonic Wars. The regiment paraded for the first time on 24 March 1820 on the Town Moor, Newcastle, where it was presented with two standards by Mrs. Brandling, the wife of Charles Brandling, the Lieutenant-Colonel Commandant, and two other ladies. In their speech the ladies expressed '... the fullest conviction that they entrusted them [i.e. the standards] to those who in every situation would defend them like Englishmen.' The colonel in turn responded '... in a speech fraught with loyalty.'

The regiment was dressed as light dragoons, in dark blue with light blue facings, yet they were presented not with the regulation guidons but with two standards. Nor did these standards meet contemporary regulations; the corner cartouches were omitted in favour of sprigs of shamrock, roses and thistles, and the abbreviated title of the regiment was contained within a winding wreath of myosotis ('forget-me-not'). Source: Pease, H., *The History of the Northumberland (Hussars) Yeomanry, 1819–1919* (London, 1924).

J4: Guidon, Welford and Newbury Yeomanry Cavalry, 1831

This troop chose to commemorate on their guidon a prominent local landowner, as well as two local towns. The arms in the centre of the flag are, from left to right, those attributed at the time to the borough of Newbury, those of the Eyre family, and those of the borough of Reading.

An earlier yeomanry troop had also recruited in the Newbury area. This was the Donnington Castle and Newbury United Cavalry, who around 1804 were carrying a bluish-green silk guidon of a most unusual pattern. Most of the sheet was occupied by a romantic view of Donnington Castle.

Another yeomanry regiment raised in the county was the Berkshire Provisional Cavalry, formed in 1797 and disbanded in 1800. The regiment carried a scarlet guidon with, in the centre, the Union badge (a rose and a thistle only, since the unit pre-dated the Union with Ireland); the second and third corners bore green cartouches, with the words 'Berks. Prov. Y.C.' in gold letters, within a wreath of roses and thistles. The regimental uniform was green with scarlet facings. The guidon either had no fringe, or it had disappeared by the time the flag was exhibited in the early 1950s; if the fringe did exist, it was probably in silver, since the uniform lace was white. Source: *JSAHR*, vol.28, p.99; vol.30, p.312.

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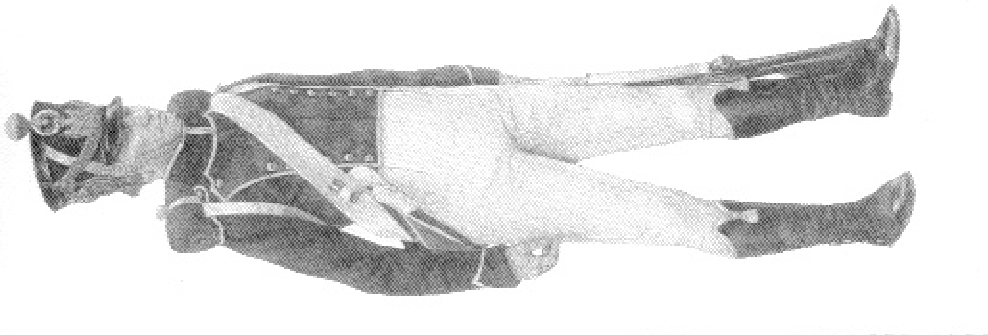

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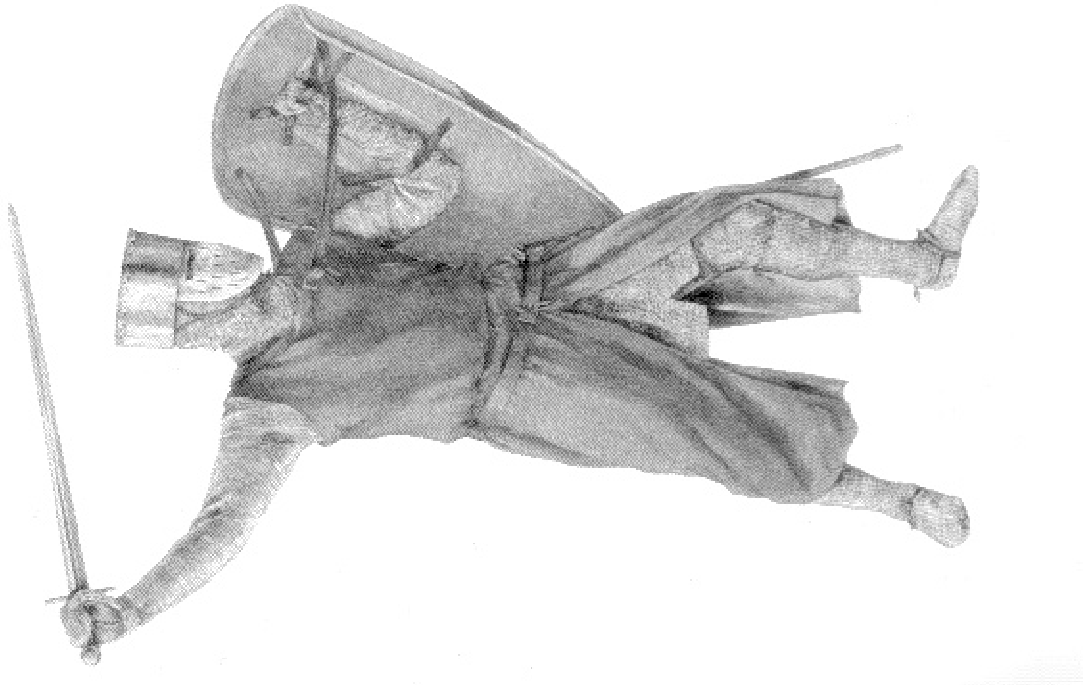

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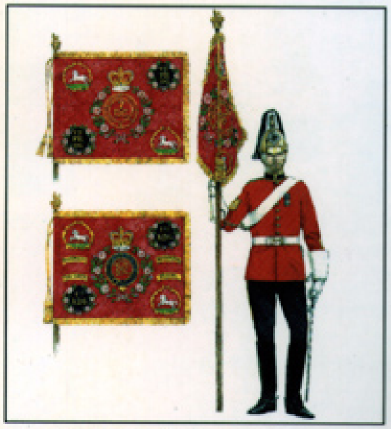

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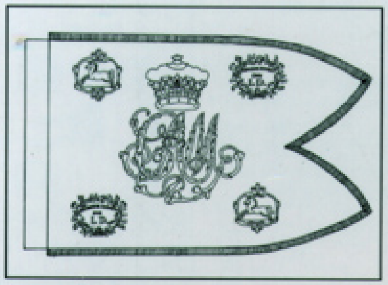

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